

May 13, 2008



TRANSCRIPT
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



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1
2 President Knapp,
3 Good morning everyone. Welcome back to our continuation of our budget deliberations.
4 Because it is Tuesday, we will begin the morning with an invocation. And I would invite
5 Chaplain Edco Bailey from Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Rockville, to please come
6 join us. And I would ask everyone to rise for the invocation.

7
8 Chaplain Edco Bailey,
9 Good morning. And I invite you to bow for a moment of prayer. Because we believe in
10 you and trust fully in you, oh God, and proclaim this trust in all of our commerce and
11 exchange with one another, we are glad to acknowledge you as we come together in
12 council. May all that we are and all that we think, may all that we say and do honor you.
13 For you have created and do sustain us out of your great love for life. We are grateful
14 and we are eager to participate with you in your care for your people here. Be with us in
15 our endeavors now, oh God. We thank you for this beautiful day in this beautiful county
16 in this beautiful country that is America. May you please always to bless us. And while
17 we seek your blessings for ourselves, we also ask that you send forth your mighty spirit
18 to bless others across this wide country and around the world who are in great need
19 and earnest desire for your blessings. Amen.

20
21 President Knapp,
22 Thank you very much, Chaplain Bailey. We now have a proclamation by
23 Councilmember Berliner recognizing Scrap Metal, the Recycling Challenge. We have,
24 apparently a guest that has joined us in the back -- Recycle Man.

25
26 Councilmember Berliner,
27 If I could ask Councilmember Leventhal to join me, I would appreciate it. And invite up
28 Tom Rojas and Rich Kefler and Martha Donnelly and Herb Gray and Recycle Man. And,
29 George you stand right there, right behind. Come on up here gang. We are honoring
30 today two communities who really exemplify the best of what we hope to see in our
31 entire County, which is a community organized competition to see who could be the
32 greenest when it comes to metal scrap. And what it achieved, again, Councilmember
33 Leventhal and I and this Council have been committed to legislation which we think is
34 important legislation to help in climate change. And that legislation is important, and it
35 will do a lot of good things. But it won't happen the way it needs to happen until each of
36 us do our part. So these two communities took it upon themselves. Mr. Rojas was the
37 inspiration behind this. Took it upon themselves to say that the communities of
38 Carderock and Cabin John would have this competition led by children, elementary
39 school kids, who would go around and collect scrap metal that is otherwise not collected
40 by the County, and work with our Department of Environmental Protection and see how
41 much scrap metal could be obtained in a very short period of time. And they collected
42 over 16 tons of scrap metal in seven weeks. Children did this. And it brought
43 communities together, it brought kids together, and it helped save our planet. This is a
44 good thing. So insofar as Councilmember Leventhal in particular has been a leading



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1 figure in an effort at making Bethesda a green community, and insofar as these are
2 communities that are part of Bethesda, it is my hope that this shows how every
3 neighborhood can organize, come together and help do the right thing by our planet. So
4 I am very proud to read this proclamation and to present this proclamation by the
5 County Council. Whereas, small metal items such as nuts, bolts, wire hangers, paper
6 clips, pots and pans are all recyclable. And although they can be recycled at the Shady
7 Grove Transfer Station Recycling Center, they are not items collected curbside for
8 recycling by Montgomery County's division of Solid Waste Services; and Whereas, in
9 spring 2008 the communities of Cabin John and Carderock Springs decided to make
10 their residents aware of these additional items that could be recycled but often end up in
11 regular trash rather than immediately separated for recycling into other new materials;
12 and Whereas, for seven weeks in March and April residents of Cabin John and
13 Carderock Springs entered into a friendly competition to see which could recycle the
14 most scrap metal with residents bringing smaller items to designated drop-off points in
15 their communities for special pick ups by the division of Solid Waste Services, and
16 larger metal items, such as old appliances, were collected through the divisions regular
17 on-call recycling collection service; and, Whereas, the pilot project resulted in 17 tons of
18 scrap metals being recycled, and was so successful that residents in these two
19 communities wanted to continue the program leading to the establishment of four
20 informal scrap metal recycling collection points in these neighborhoods; and, Whereas,
21 the further greening of the communities of Cabin John and Carderock Springs will raise
22 awareness for residents throughout the County, will set an example for other
23 communities, and will provide valuable information as Montgomery County continues its
24 drive to protect the environment. Now therefore be it resolved that the County Council of
25 Montgomery County, Maryland, hereby recognizes the environmental example set by
26 the Scrap Metal Recycling Challenge, and congratulates the communities of Cabin John
27 and Carderock Springs for making more people aware of recycling possibilities,
28 presented on this 13th day of May, in the year 2008. Michael J. Knapp, Council
29 President.

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,
32 Roger, I just wanted to add one observation. It's a beautifully written proclamation as
33 always by Delphine Harriston, but I just wanted to make this point. We think about
34 recycling in terms of reducing the waste stream, reducing the burden on landfills,
35 reducing the amount that we have to burn in our incinerator, and that's all true. But the
36 great benefit of recycling scrap metal is that we don't -- it reduces the need for new
37 refining, new mining, new smelting, which is enormously resource intensive in and of
38 itself. So as we look at the carbon footprint, the greenhouse gas footprint, the energy
39 use that goes into every piece of equipment that we use everyday. Recycled metal is a
40 gigantic resource sink that is new metal -- newly refined metal is a gigantic resource
41 sink. And so recycling metal in particular not only has the benefits of reducing the waste
42 stream, but it also dramatically potentially reduces our energy use and the emission of
43 greenhouse houses and the use of fossil fuel. So I want to congratulate, just as



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1 Councilmember Berliner did, these two communities for making that point and helping to
2 educate people.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 And let me ask my dear friend Martha Donnelly if she would care to say a few words.
6 You might want to come to this one.

7
8 Martha Donnelly,
9 Okay. I think we're all so appreciative that the recycling section was so prompt in
10 supporting this effort when we first brought it to them in early January. So we want to
11 say thank you to the County Government for supporting us, and that we would really like
12 to have this dialogue continue as we try to make the scrap metal collection more
13 permanent and predictable. And we can go even farther into other communities. Two
14 other things I'd like to say; one is that part and parcel of our endeavor was to build
15 community. And I think that that is a sustainable way to embrace green projects,
16 because we brought together inter-generational across the board. The children led the
17 way, but everybody -- they went to every single household and engaged everybody.
18 Lastly, we chose the challenge because quite honestly it's fun. So for that reason, we're
19 leaving these for the County Councilmembers and hope that they engage in their own
20 competition. And the reward will be that Recycle Man will go to the winning household
21 and turn all their faucets either on or off.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 He's revealed his secret identity here this morning.

25
26 President Knapp,
27 Thank you for bring Recycle Man in to join us today. I would also, before we get started,
28 if you happen to live in Council [inaudible] District Four and are watching us, please
29 made sure you vote if you haven't already. We have a special election taking place
30 today, and I would urge high participation if at all possible. So if you're in District Four,
31 go vote. I would turn to Ms. Lauer for any agenda and calendar changes; and I think
32 there are a few.

33
34 Linda Lauer,
35 A few, yes. We do have a few changes this week. Starting tomorrow our session will be
36 at 1:30 instead of at 9:30; it's at 1:30 and it will be down in the third-floor hearing room.
37 Thursday's session will also be at 1:30 and that will be up here. The Council is
38 announcing its -- on June 10th we will be receiving the recommendations of the Charter
39 Review Commission. The public hearing on that will be scheduled for June 24th at 1:30.
40 We did receive a couple of petitions. One supporting full funding of the libraries' budget;
41 another from the correctional facilities supporting funds for the Youthful Offenders and
42 Women's MRT units. Another supporting modernization of Gaithersburg High School;
43 and finally, one supporting modernization of Paint Branch High School. Thank you.



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1 President Knapp,
2 Good. Thank you very much. Okay, Madam Clerk, are there minutes to approve?

3
4 Council Clerk,
5 You have the minutes of April 29th for approval.

6
7 President Knapp,
8 Is there a motion?

9
10 Councilmember Floreen,
11 So moved.

12
13 President Knapp,
14 Moved by Councilmember Floreen.

15
16 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
17 Second

18
19 President Knapp,
20 Seconded by Councilmember Trachtenberg. Any discussion on the minutes? Seeing
21 none, all in support of the minutes indicate by raising your hand. That is unanimous
22 among those present. And that's just barely at a majority or at a quorum. I know turn to
23 the Consent Calendar. Is there a motion for the Consent Calendar?

24
25 Councilmember Berliner,
26 So moved.

27
28 President Knapp,
29 Moved by Councilmember Berliner.

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,
32 Second.

33
34 President Knapp,
35 Seconded by Councilmember Floreen. Are there any comments? Council Vice
36 President Andrews.

37
38 Vice President Andrews,
39 Thank you. I wanted to comment on Item C, which is the receipt and release of the
40 Office of Legislative Oversight's Memorandum Report on their planning for the required
41 evaluation that will need to be provided to the General Assembly by the end of 2009 by
42 the County Council about the operation of the speed camera program. The Department
43 of Police has worked very hard to set this up in a way that is appropriate and that has
44 the goal of reducing unsafe behavior. And the General Assembly has required that



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1 Montgomery County, through the County Council, provide a report by the end of 2009.
2 So the Office of Legislative Oversight has outlined how it plans to do that, and that's in
3 Item C. And I'm sure they'll do a very good job.

4
5 President Knapp,

6 Excellent. Thank you very much. I had just a comment on Item H, which was the
7 Resolution to Approve Franchise Agreement for Cable Television Service for Cavalier,
8 but is actually a resolution to not agree with that resolution because of a number of
9 issues that Cavalier has run into. I just wanted to clarify one point that I read in the
10 packet, which I believe said that by the Council taking his action Cavalier is still free to
11 re-file for a franchise agreement at a future point in time.

12
13 Council Clerk,
14 That's correct.

15
16 President Knapp,

17 Okay, very good. Just wanted to check on that. Thank you very much. And then the
18 other piece I just wanted to raise is on the introduction of the Resolution to Repeal
19 Policy on Parking at County Libraries. There is no action date scheduled on the
20 resolution, and it is currently scheduled for June 10th. It will not happen between now
21 and the time we do the budget. And so it's scheduled for June 10th, and we will move
22 ahead with that. I think the Council Vice President was compelling in saying that we
23 need to make sure that there's time for the community participate and act. I think that
24 gives the community that ability to do so. And the makers of the resolution have also
25 agreed with that as well. So I appreciate everyone's willingness to kind of have the
26 dialogue and public discourse. And those are the issues I have. Further comments on
27 the Consent Calendar? I don't see any. All in support of the Consent Calendar please
28 indicate by raising your hand. That is unanimous among those present. Thank you very
29 much. And with that we should be turning to the Department of Health and Human
30 Services Operating Budget, but we're missing the Chair of the Health and Human
31 Services Committee. So I would ask if one of my colleagues could actually stick their
32 head up -- Ms. Lauer, if you could just see where Councilmember Leventhal is. Turning
33 to the Chair of the HHS Committee, Councilmember Leventhal.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,

36 Thank you, Mr. President. I enjoy working with my colleagues on the HHS Committee,
37 Ms. Trachtenberg and Mr. Berliner. And we did work very closely with the Department to
38 move ahead on what is in effect a no-growth budget, unfortunately, for 2009. We have a
39 lot of social policy goals that we would like to achieve. We have a lot of people in need
40 that we would like to help. But this is a very difficult year and so in recognition of the
41 budget constraints that we are under, if the Chairman could just find his packet -- we will
42 move ahead with what is, in effect, really a no-growth budget. So we are -- we are
43 looking overall at the Executive's recommendation of \$271.8 million for the Department
44 of Health and Human Services. We did add certain items to the reconciliation list that



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1 we felt were very important. I'm going to ask Director Ahluwalia if she would like to
2 make any opening comments.

3
4 Uma Ahluwalia,
5 Appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, thank you. To all members of the Council,
6 thank you for having me here. Just two points I want to make. The budget was really
7 focused on only two sorts of activities, if you will. One was to make ground shortfalls
8 whole and to keep pace -- and to maintain existing levels of service. So beyond that it
9 really is a no-growth budget. And we appreciate the work with the HHS Committee.
10 They've been incredibly receptive to our concerns and our issues. And so we're grateful
11 to be here. Thank you.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 Well thank you. All right. So moving now to -- we're on the top of page 5 of the packet,
15 item 3. And there are a number of issues here that my colleagues will have heard about
16 in correspondence from constituents. So I'm going to identify each of these, what the
17 committee's thinking was on each of these. I hope these may be -- knowing the
18 committee's thinking, may be of assistance to colleagues as you answer some of the
19 questions you're getting from your constituents. Of course you will use your own
20 judgment as to how you respond. I can't see colleagues' lights, so I will ask the
21 President or the Vice President to just say, Mr. Chairman, to get my attention if any
22 other Councilmember would like to speak. Within administration and support, or course,
23 this is the fund that the Director uses to run her Department. With reluctance, the
24 committee did not agree to add a new Senior Program Manager and create this new
25 position proposed by Ms. Ahluwalia; the program manager for the Office of Disparities
26 Reduction. An important point about this year's budget is that the three health initiatives
27 intended to target health disparities are being moved in this budget out of the health
28 service into the office of the director. The committee supports that move and believes
29 that these three very important bases in our community, the Latino Health Initiative, the
30 African American Health Program, and the Asian American Health Initiative, should
31 have direct access to the Director. And we also support the Director's initiative and
32 these three initiatives initiative to broaden their scope to disparities generally. Because
33 we acknowledge that underrepresented communities and historically disadvantaged
34 communities may not have the same access to services. And so we have for many
35 years in Montgomery County attempted to address health disparities, but we also want
36 to look at disparities in the delivery of social services, income supports, child welfare
37 services, mental health services, housing supports, all of the range of services that the
38 department provides. And so while we support that policy direction, and we also support
39 it having the three initiatives have direct access to the director, we did not agree that we
40 would create a new layer of bureaucracy this year in between the three initiatives and
41 the director. If the purpose of moving the initiatives out of the health service area was so
42 that these three initiatives no longer had to work through an office of disparities
43 reduction director and the health officer to get to the director, we didn't then see the
44 need to create a new manager over the three initiatives, especially not in this year



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1 where we are actually making significant program reductions, and rifting certain frontline
2 employees. We did not agree to add a new six-figure manager. So we didn't approve
3 the program manager and we put that -- and we took that out. We did recommend an
4 additional 1% adjustment for contractors. Traditionally the County Council has done
5 this. We acknowledge that inflation right now is well above 2%, but historically the
6 County Executive has recommended a 1% inflation adjustment. The County Council
7 has sought to find the resources for an additional 1%, and we did so again in this year's
8 reconciliation list. With respect to the Developmental Disability Supplement -- now we're
9 moving out of administration and support into the Aging and Disability Service area, the
10 middle of page 5. Historically the Council has provided a subsidy to support the wages
11 of those service providers in group homes and facilities and programs that benefit
12 people with developmental disabilities, including autism, mental retardation and other
13 disabilities. And so we are concerned that the Executive's budget did not provide a
14 county wage supplement for any new cases, and it is our hope that we will continue our
15 policy of adding this wage supplement. Primarily the wages are paid through state
16 programs, but then the wage payments are uniform throughout the state of Maryland.
17 And we all know that the cost of living is substantially higher in Montgomery County
18 than in, for example, Wicomico County or Allegheny County. And so expecting us to
19 adhere to a standard wage payment that some of the less expensive counties adhere to
20 is not a policy that Montgomery County has adopted in the past. And so although we did
21 not add money this year because we want to spend out the \$175,000 that the Executive
22 has proposed, it is our expectation that the department will let us know before the
23 money runs out, and we want to make sure to keep those workers whole in the course
24 of the year. Should a supplemental be necessary, we want to make sure that the
25 department gives us early and ample notice to keep the DD supplements in place. I'm
26 pausing briefly at the end of each of these items, but if nobody has any questions or
27 comments I'll just keep going.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 Council Vice President Andrews has a question.

31
32 Vice President Andrews,
33 Thank you, Chair Leventhal. I commend the committee for adding the 1% supplement to
34 the reconciliation list for the contractors and for your highlighting of the supplement for
35 the workers who are working with people who are developmentally disabled. Has there
36 been -- over the last few years this has been the traditional pattern, as you know, that
37 the County Executive usually puts in a 1% inflationary adjustment. We usually add a
38 percent, which is -- sometimes gets it around the inflation rate. Has there been any kind
39 of comprehensive study over the last few years that shows sort of the impact of that,
40 because there continues to be a gap there between what that supplement is and what
41 the real world conditions are?

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,
44 That's absolutely right.



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1
2 Vice President Andrews,
3 It has multiple effects, I think, in terms of retention of employees, and so on. This is one
4 reason why I worked hard and the Council has worked hard to support a living wage law
5 for our for-profit contractors.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 Right.

9
10 Vice President Andrews,
11 Doesn't apply to the non-profits, but we've encouraged by not penalizing non-profits
12 who pay a living wage in terms of the comparison between that and what a non-profit
13 doesn't. But I'm concerned that as this goes on year after year there's a continual gap
14 growing between contractors and other employees.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 There is, indeed, and I'm certain that the ARC and the JFGH and CSAC and all of our
18 excellent providers who work in this community would love to share with the Council
19 Vice President and the entire Council the gaps that they do face and the difficulties that
20 they do face maintaining an excellent workforce and a high level of service. They do
21 have dedicated employees. There are great problems with recruitment and retention for
22 the client population. Staff turnover is disorienting and difficult. So the Council Vice
23 President is exactly correct. We haven't done a systematic study of those gaps. I'm not
24 sure if we were to do such a study what the answer would be. I don't know whether
25 Joan Plenel is present, but I know Director Ahluwalia, as her predecessor did, continues
26 to work with the State to reimburse us for this wage supplement. We have a very strong
27 argument to make that our cost of living is substantially higher here. Perhaps the
28 Director could tell us about the status of our discussions with the State to try and make
29 these providers whole.

30
31 Uma Ahluwalia,
32 It's a continuous struggle. I think the State reimburses us even less than the County is
33 able to do. And the gap is widening between what the State support is and the County.
34 There's also the issue, and I think this is what Chairman Leventhal is referring to, which
35 is the Federal capture of dollars on the DD supplement side, which is halted for a good
36 10 years now. And we've been trying to resurrect that. And I know that Mrs.
37 Trachtenberg has also had conversations with the governor about this issue. But we
38 haven't found any traction at the state as of yet; and it's something that we'll continue to
39 pursue with -- the State has not been able to keep up. We're at least making an attempt
40 at the local level. But the state has not at all been able to keep up with the differential.

41
42 President Knapp,
43 I would just add to that. During the course of the education deliberation yesterday, we
44 talked about the impact of the State's actions on our taxpayers. And, you know, this is



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1 one of those things that tends to get glossed over during the course of discussion,
2 especially down in Annapolis. Montgomery County residents are generally looked upon
3 to foot much of the increases necessary to fund the State's budgets. And the rationale
4 that is generally raised is well, people in Montgomery County are more wealthy if you
5 look at a per capita basis then those residents in the rest of the State. And yet the
6 conversation that somehow always manages never to come up is what the cost of living
7 is in Montgomery County relative to the cost of living in those other jurisdictions. And so
8 it's very nice for the State to lay out this notion that well it appears to be a wealthier
9 county if you look at a per capita or a per household basis. But unless you're willing to
10 actually have the second part of that conversation, recognizing what the cost is, you're
11 really actually hurting those most needy in our community, and also really hitting a
12 number of times that the residents in the County who are paying increased taxes at
13 virtually every level that the State has proposed. And I just think it's important for us to
14 continue to try and put that out there. It's one thing to come to Montgomery County and
15 ask for us to help provide the resources to solve the problem, but you've got to look at
16 the other part of that equation if we're going to make that work. And so I appreciate the
17 efforts of the Chair of the MFP Committee, Councilmember Trachtenberg. I appreciate
18 the question that the Council Vice President has raised. And I know that the Chair of the
19 HHS Committee has long been a supporter of trying to make sure this issue is in front of
20 folks. And I know that the HHS Department under the Director is focused on this as well.
21 And I think we need to continue to kind of pound on that drum a little bit. Because
22 certainly there's no hesitation to come to us to ask for more money, but when it looks at
23 what the cost of living is here, we don't even have that conversation; yet our most
24 vulnerable populations are suffering as a result of that.

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,

27 Okay, thank you. With respect to senior group homes, the Executive's budget
28 recommended a reduction of \$44,930 because the grant funding had been reduced.
29 The committee expressed the hope that we could find \$64,200 to add to the
30 reconciliation list to allow 10 more clients to participate in the program if the budget
31 permits. With respect to in-home aid services, this is a very, very important service that
32 enables our frailest and poorest elderly residents to manage their daily lives. The
33 Executive's budget took a very large savings here -- \$471,960 -- by reducing the hours
34 that these elderly, poor and disabled residents of Montgomery County would have
35 access to physical assistance in dressing, bathing, eating, those things where, again,
36 the residents are so physically disabled that they can't perform these tasks on their own.
37 The committee hopes that we will be able to manage the client load at this reduced
38 number of hours. We have some concerns about how this new policy will be
39 implemented; and therefore, we hope that the Council will -- we hope that the
40 department will continue to monitor this and that we can add \$200,000 in two
41 increments to give the department the flexibility to address the greatest emergency
42 cases and cases where 15 hours of this in-home aid service simply may not be
43 possible. Let me just add that this is an example of one of the most critical needs that
44 we face in the community. And getting back to the issue of disparities, although the



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1 committee shares with the Director the very strong desire to reduce disparities and
2 commends the initiative to investigate disparities throughout; when we are reducing
3 hours for literally the frailest, sickest, oldest and poorest residents of Montgomery
4 County, this is an area where we wanted to put resources as a higher priority rather
5 than adding a new senior manager in the office of the director. I spoke with the Chair of
6 the Latino Health Initiative this morning. And she asked me where was this \$120,000
7 that's not being used to create the new program manager for disparity reduction, where
8 is it going. And this is an example, in-home aid services for the elderly in emergency
9 situations where 15 hours is just not enough. I'm pausing to see if there are any
10 questions and comments. If not, we will move ahead to the behavioral health and crisis
11 service branch. I particularly want to commend Councilmember Trachtenberg for her
12 expertise and leadership in this area. We had very thoughtful and thorough
13 conversations on all of these changes to the budget. The first -- and Councilmembers
14 heard testimony from those who are in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. This is
15 very complicated with the Avery Road Treatment Center. I know that Councilmembers
16 have heard from constituents about it. I don't want to spend more time on it than it
17 merits, but if there are questions about it, I will ask Mr. Jones, if he's available, to help
18 us understand exactly what has happened here. The Avery Road Treatment Center is
19 operated by a nonprofit provider, Maryland Treatment Centers. And Maryland
20 Treatment Centers manages Avery Road Treatment Center through a variety of
21 different funding streams. Some of the clients who were in recovery at the Avery Road
22 Treatment Center actually were residents of Prince George's County, not Montgomery
23 County. There has been a decision by Prince George's County, very reasonable,
24 logical, that Prince George's County would provide its own treatment beds. As a result
25 of this though, the funding stream to Maryland Treatment Centers changed, and that
26 has an impact on Maryland Treatment Centers' capability to provide beds within the
27 Avery Road Treatment Center. Now for FY09, Maryland Treatment Center is seeking to
28 restore some of those funds by attracting private-pay clients. And the quality -- I want
29 my colleagues to know, the quality of the recovery services being provided at Avery
30 Road Treatment Center is so high that we do actually -- we are very competitive with
31 private recovery rehab detox facilities. And so we do attract clients because the quality
32 of service is so high. But there is some uncertainty and concern. And we certainly don't
33 want to be in a situation where the funding stream is so shaky that as a result of the loss
34 of other clients, our poor, uninsured clients who are struggling with addiction don't have
35 access. And we already have a waiting list and there is a time delay now in terms of
36 people who are trying to get clean or trying to get control over their lives. Trying to get
37 into detox, get treatment, get therapy, and have addiction services provided to them.
38 And so as a result, the committee recommends the \$215,000 be funded through the
39 reconciliation list to keep Maryland Treatment Centers whole, and ensure that we don't
40 have a crisis here in our crisis service in providing the detox, the therapy, the addiction
41 treatment services that this clientele needs. So we did recommend an addition of
42 \$215,000 on the reconciliation list for this. Are there any questions or comments about
43 that?
44



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1 President Knapp,
2 No, sir. Continue on.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Okay. With respect to Adult Drug Court, we support this program, and we approved the
6 additional grant funds that would allow the caseload to increase from 45 to 60. And we
7 look forward, if Chairman Andrews is amenable, to having an educational and policy
8 session with the Public Safety Committee to evaluate the Adult Drug Court program,
9 learn more about it and see how we can continue to be supportive.

10
11 Vice President Andrews,
12 Yes, we look forward to that.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 The Assertive Community Treatment Team is another issue on which I know my
16 colleagues are receiving quite a bit of correspondence. I am a strong believer, and the
17 committee has been strongly supportive of the Assertive Community Treatment model.
18 It is an evidence-based practice that is identified as the best practice throughout the
19 United States to deal with the most extreme cases of individuals coping with mental
20 illnesses, people who are not able to make decisions in their own best interest. And so
21 you have patients who may be struggling with mental illness, schizophrenia, bipolar, a
22 variety of conditions, who may be resistant to taking those steps that would be
23 necessary to get themselves in better shape. They may not want to take their meds.
24 They may not want to seek shelter. They may not want to go to therapy. And so what is
25 required is not a passive but rather an assertive approach to dealing with these clients.
26 You have social workers who really very actively establish a relationship with the client
27 and insist that they take the steps, primarily taking their meds, but other steps
28 necessary that will enable them to get their life in order. State law closely defines the
29 parameters of what constitutes an invasion of privacy, what constitutes voluntary versus
30 involuntary activity. But, again, Assertive Community Treatment is a step forward in
31 what I say is getting in the face of the client rather than giving the client his or her
32 space. When you have a client who is not capable of making decision in his or her own
33 best interest, it is important that the government step in and start assisting that
34 individual to make the right decisions on their own treatment and their own care. So we
35 strongly support this model. The problem is that we had not been certified by the State
36 of Maryland with our program of in-house county employees, social workers and
37 therapists providing this service. We were getting less than the full reimbursement that
38 we were entitled to. And there's a variety of reasons for this. We have excellent social
39 workers and therapists working for the department, but what we're looking for is a more
40 aggressive, a more field-based model that is more out in the community and less behind
41 the desk. And so we were told by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42 that our approach was falling short and that we were not going to be reimbursed at the
43 highest possible rate. And so the department is exploring now with the State of
44 Maryland treating the Assertive Community Treatment program the same way that



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1 every other jurisdiction in the state of Maryland does it; that is a direct contract with the
2 State with an outside provider that will follow this evidence-based practice through a
3 private, nonprofit, not through the 13 social workers and therapists who had been doing
4 it in the past. This if a riff and this is a significant step here that we're taking. And to
5 some extent it's a leap of faith. And we hope -- and we've been in close communication
6 with the advocates for the mentally ill clients. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill,
7 NAMI, has expressed tentative support for this approach as long as a good transition
8 plan is provided for the mentally ill clients. And information on the transition plan is
9 included in this packet. Montgomery County Mental Health Association, we're all familiar
10 with, have expressed support for this change in the Assertive Community Treatment
11 program. Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, many of the clients for the
12 ACT team are homeless, also is expressing support for transitioning this away from
13 County employees and having the State administer the contract. But we've heard from
14 clients and their loved ones, people who care for them, who are concerned about the
15 transition. And, again, under Councilmember Trachtenberg's leadership and at NAMI's
16 suggestion, a detailed transition plan is provided here in the packet. I know that my
17 colleagues are hearing from clients and their families about this. We're going to
18 continue to monitor this carefully. We don't take this stuff lightly, but the committee did
19 go along with the administration's recommendation to make this transition. And we take
20 it on faith that the department will make every effort to continue to utilize the good
21 services of the 13 employees whose jobs are going to change as a result of this
22 transition. Any questions or comments on the ACT team?

23
24 President Knapp,
25 Almost.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

29
30 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
31 I'll actually wait until you've finished, George. I did want to make some remarks.

32
33 Councilmember Leventhal,
34 On the ACT -- well I'm done on the ACT Team.

35
36 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
37 Well, why don't -- .

38
39 Councilmember Leventhal,
40 Okay. Regarding the Mobile Crisis Team, the committee is incredulous that it still is not
41 up and running after we all patted ourselves on the back a year ago for establishing
42 24/7 service for the Mobile Crisis Team. We thought we had already done this. It took
43 some time to provide round-the-clock staffing. There were some issues of wage equity
44 and wage compression that the department has been working through. It's taking way



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1 too long to work through them, and here in full Council session, I want to reemphasize
2 to the department this is a top priority for the HHS Committee, and I believe has the
3 support of all of my colleagues. And we urge the department to move ahead promptly
4 with providing the 24/7 staffing for the Mobile Crisis Team. Mr. Jones.

5
6 David Jones,

7 And, Mr. Leventhal, I just want to update the Council that we actually have hired the
8 three positions for the Mobile Crisis Team. The only thing that's pending is the
9 completion of a physical. But the staff have all accepted offers.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,

12 Excellent. Thank you very much. Mental health services for seniors and person with
13 disabilities, we wish we had been able to expand the services here because there is a
14 very large client population in need. But we unfortunately went along with the
15 Executive's recommendation for no growth in FY09. With respect to the Betty Ann
16 Cronkie Shelter, a program that I know that my colleagues strongly support; we have a
17 long history here. We are opti -- we had heard from Cheryl Bristol Chapman at the
18 National Center for Children and Families concern that she does not want to lose the
19 availability of childcare for the clients at the Betty Ann Cronkie Center, who, as we all
20 know, are women mostly with children who have had crises and emergencies in their
21 relationships. But the department assures us that the childcare will continue to be
22 provided somehow. And so we are going to hold them to that promise. And that would --
23 Ms. Trachtenberg, before we move off of the Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
24 area.

25
26 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

27 Okay. I want to thank our committee Chair for an excellent summary of the discussion
28 on these items. And I'd like to open my remarks by talking a little bit about the Avery
29 Road Treatment Center. And, you know, early on before we had public discussion, I
30 encouraged many of the folks that were in recovery to come on out and really for the
31 first time advocate for themselves. And they were welcomed by my colleagues and that
32 was quite important to them. And I believe that they truly experienced empowerment.
33 And they are very excited that they had a voice in the conversation; but more
34 importantly, that they were able to influence the decision by the committee and
35 potentially by the Council. And I want to acknowledge that, because for folks in recovery
36 these are hard steps. They might not seem that big of a deal to us, but to them they
37 really are. It shows that they have a control in where their life goes. And that's recovery
38 is really all about. So I want to thank my colleagues for their support on the additional
39 funding for this program. In terms of the ACT Team, Councilmember Leventhal, again,
40 very accurately described the interaction that our committee had had with the
41 community about the transition of the ACT team. It was at my suggestion that we had
42 asked the department for a transition plan. And I want to acknowledge the department's
43 response because, again, it came very quickly and it looks to be comprehensive to me. I
44 know that we agreed within the committee that we would continue to work with the



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1 department on this transition and have regular updates, I believe, in both October and
2 December. So this is something that will remain on our radar screen. But I want to
3 acknowledge that the department did a very good job of responding to some of the
4 concerns that the community had, and that I, myself, had expressed. And I'd like to
5 close my remarks by actually noting for my colleagues that, you know, I very much
6 believe that as we face difficult economic times that indeed there is going to be growing
7 need to fund additional services. And this is something we're going to have to visit next
8 year, and in the years ahead. And when we talk about providing an adequate response
9 to homelessness here in Montgomery County, again something that our Chair is so
10 committed to, and I know my colleagues are as well. If all of that works, one of the main
11 reasons it works is because we are able to provide adequate case management and
12 adequate behavioral health services. So I see down the road a need to increase the
13 commitment that we have made this year in this are. And I just wanted to put that line
14 down in the sand for my colleagues. And I'm sure you would all expect that you'll be
15 hearing from me next year about this once again. But I very much appreciate the
16 support of my committee colleagues, but also of this body.

17
18 Councilmember Leventhal,

19 Thank you very much. I've enjoyed working with you on these topics, Duchy. I didn't
20 actually take -- David Jones, we're almost done with you, but when we were on aging
21 and disabilities I didn't call Jay Kenney up And I don't know if -- let me just roll back to
22 aging and disabilities for a minute. Let me just acknowledge our excellent service
23 Director -- Jay, come on up -- on aging and disabilities. And before you go, David -- Jay,
24 was there anything you wanted to say about the Aging and Disabilities Service Branch?
25 We sort of glossed over it without giving you an opportunity to say anything.

26
27 Jay Kenney,

28 Not at all; everything was covered thoroughly.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,

31 Okay. And, David, did you want to make any closing remarks about Behavioral and
32 Crisis Services?

33
34 David Jones,

35 I concur with Jay; everything was covered thoroughly.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 Okay. I do want to take a minute with both of our service directors here. And I'm going
39 to do the same with the others. I'd like both of you just to take a moment to consider
40 how, in the coming year, you will rededicate yourself to the director's goal of eliminating
41 disparities among the different demographic groups in the community. We did not add
42 this one new director, but it is my hope and belief that each of our service branches will
43 work closely with the director. We remain committed to that goal of eliminating disparity.
44 So I just want to take this moment to urge both of you to consider in your own work



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1 program. And I'm going to be asking the same of each of the service branch directors to
2 ensure that you are seriously and programmatically thinking through how we can
3 eliminate disparities among different demographic groups, income groups, ethnic, racial
4 and immigrant groups. Thank you very much. Okay, so let's have Kate Garvey come up
5 now. And we're moving ahead. We are on page 8, and we're talking about Children,
6 Youth and Families. We will later deal with -- there's a substantial amount of Kate
7 Garvey's portfolio that comes that we will discuss jointly with Chairwoman Ervin on the
8 Education Committee. But for the Tree House -- the Children's Assessment Center,
9 which is actually having an event tomorrow, we agreed with the Executive's
10 recommendation of \$529,830. This very important organization assists children who
11 have been the victims of abuse. And I know that my colleagues share the committee's
12 strong support for it. With respect to the Juvenile Drug Court, again, we earlier
13 discussed the Drug Court generally. We look forward to having a discussion with the
14 Public Safety Committee to learn more about and figure out how we can even more
15 strongly support the Juvenile Drug Court to reduce the docket in Juvenile Court, and
16 more specifically focus on the problems of those young people who have substance
17 abuse issues. We did not recommend funding the League of Korean Americans
18 contract. And I think we will discuss that later today with Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare. So now
19 -- okay. There are some concerns about who is in charge at the League of Korean
20 Americans, and so the County has not disbursed funds to it, and we are not
21 recommending that the County do so this year either; am I correct? Does anything more
22 need to be said about that at this time?

23
24 Vivian Yao,

25 No. Basically you had asked Council staff to follow up with the League of Korean
26 Americans to let them know that the Council was considering eliminating this contract.
27 And we did receive comments from the League requesting that Council appropriate
28 funds in anticipation of their resolving the conflict that they're having. Council staff
29 recommends though that we do not appropriate now. Once the matter is settled the
30 Council could then consider whether appropriating money at that time is appropriate.

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,

33 Right. The committee did not think it was wise to appropriate dollars to an organization
34 whose leadership of its board was in dispute. Any questions or comments about that?
35 Okay, Kate, did you want to make any comments?

36
37 Kate Garvey,

38 No, thank you. I think it was a thorough presentation.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,

41 Okay. And we are, again, urging all of our service directors to take on this charge of
42 incorporating the goal of eliminating disparities in your work plan for the year.

43
44 Kate Garvey,



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1 And I appreciate that. And in addition, I think we are also looking at disproportionality
2 (sic) particularly in areas of child welfare and juvenile services. So it's both disparity in
3 terms of positive outcomes, but also disproportionality.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,

6 Thank you very much. Public Health Services; is Dr. Tillman here this morning? Okay a
7 lot of issues here. I'll try to be cognizant of the Council's time. The Executive
8 recommends a reduction of \$710,000; 730 to the Montgomery Cares Program this year.
9 Chairman Leventhal is not happy about this. The major areas of reduction are the
10 mental health and oral health pilots, medications and clinic infrastructure grants.
11 Director Ahluwalia, you said that the overall reduction reflects the current effort to
12 expand infrastructure and lower than budgeted expenditures for medications.
13 Councilmember Leventhal very diplomatically and tactfully suggested -- .

14
15 Vice President Andrews,
16 As always?

17
18 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

19 Well, now the committee might have something to say about that.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,

22 Suggested that the goal of the program may require that we increase the resources
23 each year; however, we went along with the department's recommended funding level
24 with some modifications beginning on Item B, page 9. Contracts with Mobile Med,
25 [inaudible], and Spanish Catholic Center, the department's suggestion was that we end
26 these contracts; and the committee's recommendation was that we keep these
27 contracts on the reconciliation list for funding. Now let me just state from the get-go. I
28 am very grateful for the community volunteers; very knowledgeable and experienced
29 professionals who are donating their time to serve on the Montgomery Cares Advisory
30 Board. And it is my desire to give deference to the recommendations of the Montgomery
31 Cares Advisory Board. I understand that we are seeking to move to a uniform
32 reimbursement mechanism whereby all clinics generally are treated the same, and
33 where the advisory board gives us informed recommendations about how to manage
34 this program. Having said that, in a situation where the program, Montgomery Cares, is
35 not growing at the pace where we anticipated it could and where our capacity is not
36 expanding as rapidly as we want it to, and clinics are coming to us and saying we've got
37 to have these dollars in order to serve patients this year; it was the committee's view
38 that we didn't have confidence that by scaling back the program rather than expanding
39 the program and terminating contracts that had been in place for several years, that we
40 could in fact continue to grow the number of patients. And as we know in this economy,
41 the number of patients in need and the number of patients losing jobs and losing
42 insurance is only going to increase. So it's not the committee's desire to have friction
43 with the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board or friction with the department; we want
44 sweetness and light and good feelings and sunshine all around. But we've got to look at



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1 how are we keeping these clinics whole, and whether or not a single funding
2 mechanism and a single formula for each clinic may or may not meet the needs of
3 specific clinics that are run quite differently. Some are run purely on volunteers. Some
4 have paid staff. Some are mobile. Some are stationary. There's a variety of different
5 models of providing healthcare. And although there are strongly different viewpoints in
6 the healthcare advocacy community about how best to do this, at least the Chairman's
7 view, and the committee agreed with this -- in fact, it was Mr. Berliner who primarily
8 suggested that we put these grants on the reconciliation list. We also need to listen to
9 the individual clinics themselves who are actually providing the care day-to-day. The
10 HHS Committee reviewed a number of separate grant requests in the healthcare area.
11 CCI -- let me really commend Director Ahluwalia who has responded adeptly and
12 promptly to an emergency situation. I know Dr. Tillman and her staff also has been very
13 much involved in trying to make sure that CCI does not go under. These are under-
14 funded shoestring operations these community clinics that are providing healthcare to
15 people in need. And CCI is facing a financial emergency. And the Director and the
16 health officer and other senior staff have been working to make sure that they stay open
17 and continue to provide the care. CCI asked us for \$20,000 to assist them to convert to
18 a new electronic patient record system. We did not go along with that because although
19 we may not mandate uniformity throughout the clinics, we are very interested in having
20 an accessible shared electronic database; and so we did not want to promote CCI
21 developing its own electronic record-keeping system. The committee did recommend
22 placing \$130,000 on the reconciliation list for additional staff at Mobile Medical Care.
23 Again, some of our clinics operate entirely through volunteers, others rely upon paid
24 staff. And it was not the committee's view that we should impose upon Mobile Med
25 particular staffing model but that we would try and support their desire to actually use
26 staff to expand the number of volunteers. That's what these two staff positions are for.
27 With respect to \$100,000 for a nurse practitioner for the new Mobile Med Up-County
28 clinic, Mr. President, we acknowledge there are rising numbers of uninsured up-county,
29 and so the committee recommended placing \$100,000 to fund staff. So when we're
30 cutting more than \$700,000 from the program and yet clinics are coming to us and
31 saying we could expand access if you would just allow us to add staff, and we have a
32 per-patient reimbursement formula that does not provide adequate staffing, we're
33 putting money into bricks and mortar and we agree that we need to build additional
34 clinic capacity. But it has been the Chairman's view for some time that we ought to also
35 acknowledge the need for staff. Some clinics don't want paid staff, other clinics do. And
36 so some flexibility, I think, is warranted. I'm going to pause for any questions about the
37 Montgomery Cares program or health clinics generally. Okay. The Executive
38 recommended elimination of the audiology program, and we're going to continue to
39 monitor the effect of that. The committee was willing to go along with that with regret.
40 Restaurant inspections -- we had a very interesting discussion about restaurant
41 inspections. We have added burdens on our restaurant inspection staff here by
42 legislating additional requirements, including the trans-fat ban, which is now in place
43 and which we hope will have salutary effects on public health and public awareness of
44 nutrition; however, we did not go along with a new program manager or a new



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1 inspector. We think it's a tough year and we just didn't think that was a priority when we
2 were scaling back other services. We had an interesting discussion about fees and the
3 department is going to get back to us to see whether we can look at restaurant fees as
4 a revenue source in the future. The Gospel Program -- this is another challenging
5 decision made by the department that constituents probably have been contacting
6 Councilmembers about. The Gospel Program is a very successful program that works
7 closely with African American churches, and its director is one of our senior managers,
8 and this is funded through the Cigarette Restitution Fund. And the State of Maryland
9 basically told us that we are too generous with our senior managers, and the State was
10 not willing to fund the salary of this individual. This individual is highly regarded, well
11 respected, and will continue to contribute to the work of the department, but in order to
12 stay in compliance with the State's guidelines, the department made the decision to
13 reassign the director. This is not a County Council decision. The County Council does
14 not have specific discretion over the assignment or reassignment of specific positions.
15 This is entirely the department's decision. So that when you hear from -- as I have and I
16 know my colleagues have -- distinguished clergy in the community and other community
17 leaders expressing concerns about this program, I just recommend that you express
18 sympathy for their concerns, but make it very clear that specific decisions about specific
19 personnel are the discretion of the Executive Branch; it is not the County Council's
20 decision who manages a program. But we acknowledge the great work of the manager,
21 and we acknowledge the great of work of the Gospel Program. And the Gospel Program
22 will continue, and we will continue, as we have said throughout, to address outreach
23 education and disparities in our minority communities. STD/HIV treatment, we support
24 the Executive Branch's recommendation for funding there. We do not have a waiting list
25 right now on HIV clinics. And we will have a work session later this year likely working
26 with the Education Committee to discuss family planning, reproductive health, sexually
27 transmitted diseases, that basket of issues, which is a topic great interest and concern
28 in our public health delivery. And Maternity Partnership, a few years ago we were
29 concerned that too many expectant moms were overburdening the system; now
30 because other hospitals have stepped up to the plate, we're getting complaints that too
31 few moms are utilizing the services at our hospitals. But the good news is we are
32 continuing to provide prenatal care to uninsured expectant moms, and we are going to
33 continue to do so. The copay scheduled to be increased. Expectant moms can arrange
34 payment plans. They can spread out the payment of the copay over time. And it has
35 been at the same level for many years, and the department will work out payment
36 arrangements with expectant moms if the increase and copay an excessive burden. We
37 certainly want to make sure that the prenatal care is provided. Dr. Tillman, as I did with
38 the other service directors, I do want to emphasize, and I hardly need to do it in your
39 case since you in many ways have been the leader in the health disparity area; but I do
40 urge you to incorporate the urgency of reducing disparities into your work plan for the
41 coming year, as I know you are already planning to do. Okay, any other questions or
42 comments on public health?

43
44 President Knapp,



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1 No.

2
3 Councilmember Leventhal,

4 Okay, Dr. Tillman, or Uma, anything else on public health? Okay, Special Needs
5 Housing, Mr. Kahn. The Council had thorough and lively discussion yesterday on the
6 Housing First initiative. We have ever expectation that HHS and DHCA will seamlessly
7 and cooperatively work together to get homeless people off the street and to meet the
8 needs of our disabled and elderly populations; and we just know that there will be
9 nothing but harmony and close cooperation between those two departments. And that
10 Mr. Kahn and his team and Director Ahluwalia and Scott Reilly and Mr. Nelson will
11 operate as if we were just one county government. And that's our goal. So we look
12 forward to that occurring in the coming year. Energy Tax Rebate is an issue that we are
13 looking at as we consider raising the energy tax. Councilmember Ervin has been an
14 advocate for increasing reimbursements to our lowest income working families who are
15 struggling to meet their utility bills. And assuming that the energy tax will be increased,
16 the committee recommend, jointly with the MFP and T&E committees, we are
17 recommending that we increase the reimbursement for energy tax that is added to the
18 meat payment that goes to the lowest households. Is that 125% of poverty? Is that
19 correct the families who get the meat payment? So that is \$24,000 or \$25,000 for a
20 family of four; 125% of poverty. Just to get people's minds around who were
21 compensating for the increase in energy tax. Daytime hours for Gude Men's Shelter, the
22 County Executive and his team are very good at their jobs but sometimes they make
23 mistakes, and a mistake was made here. They left the \$200,000 out that they had
24 intended to add to provide daytime hours for the Gude Men's Shelter. And the County
25 Executive actually sent us a memo stating that it had been his intention to appropriate
26 these funds. And the committee does recommend that the \$200,000 to maintain
27 daytime hours at the Gude Men's Shelter for homeless people. The added -- even as
28 we transition this and other shelter operations to the Housing First model. Motel funding,
29 this is a very important point. And I'm going to have a number of questions soon for the
30 department on exactly what we spend for family on motel placements. There is an
31 enormous need for housing for homeless families. And when we talk about families, by
32 definition, we are talking about families with children. When we talk about homeless
33 families, we are talking about families with children. And no matter what our views are,
34 we know that the children whose parents have encountered unlucky circumstances are
35 entirely innocent. And none of the unlucky circumstances are brought upon them
36 through their own actions. And so thankfully the County has adopted a policy that no
37 family with children -- no family with children will sleep on the street or in an automobile
38 or in parks. So we house these families in motels. And it costs a lot of money; a lot of
39 money. And in the coming weeks we are going to get additional data per family as to
40 what it costs to meet this humane commitment of conscious to make sure that no family
41 will children sleeps on the streets. But every year we have a disagreement with the
42 Executive because the Executive doesn't actually know how many families are going to
43 present from year to year; so every single year we under-budget here. And this year we
44 agreed to a \$350,000 decrease understanding that if the number of families increases,



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1 we're going to have to make this up again. But what I need from the department here is
2 clarity on -- in a one-family basis, I need to know exactly how much it costs to house a
3 family in a motel. How many families -- I don't need this right now, but I'll need it soon.
4 How many families are housed in motels? What is their average duration of stay? And
5 that will be it for now. Okay. Housing First -- yes, please, Ms. Floreen.

6
7 Councilmember Floreen,
8 How much do we spend on motel housing now? What the total?

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 You need to press your button, Nadim.

12
13 Nadim Kahn,
14 Our budget at this time is approximately \$700,000.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,
17 \$700,000 total.

18
19 Nadim Kahn,
20 Yeah.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 How many families?

24
25 Nadim Kahn,
26 For motel placement.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 For how many families?

30
31 Nadim Kahn,
32 We serve 560 families -- close to 560 families last year.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Okay. And you'll get back to me on the average duration of stay.

36
37 Nadim Kahn,
38 Yes, we'll get that.

39
40 Councilmember Floreen,
41 Thanks.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 Okay, Housing First we discussed extensively yesterday. And the department is
2 developing a plan, and Director Ahluwalia promised that we would have it by July 1st.
3 And Director Nelson said it we would have it by October 1st.

4
5 Uma Ahluwalia,
6 We'll have it by July 1st.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 And we look forward to this close partnership between HHS and DHCA in addressing
10 this program. Mr. Kahn, as I have with the other service directors, we strongly
11 encourage you to make it priority to eliminate disparities in service and delivery, and to
12 evaluate in the course of your work plan how disparities may be identified and
13 addressed in the coming year. Did you want to say anything else about the Special
14 Needs Housing service area?

15
16 Nadim Kahn,
17 We're just looking forward to implement Housing First for the County.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 Thank you very much. Any questions or comments overall about the HHS Department
21 budget?

22
23 President Knapp,
24 As always, Mr. Chairman, you did a fabulous job. You've walked through your command
25 of the issues and the department is vast. I mean, it's very impressive. And I thank you
26 for your commitment to it, and the issues that you've laid out for us to consider and
27 working the department and making sure that their concerns get adequately
28 represented is much appreciated by the Council.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 Well thank you. I really want to thank Linda McMillan and Vivian Yao, who we've had
32 some staff transitions here in the HHS Department, but the committee never felt any
33 disruption at all. We've been more than adequately served by staff. And I want to thank
34 them for their efforts and the information that they've consistently provided to us.

35
36 President Knapp,
37 Okay. We now turn to the joint HHS/Ed Committee recommendations for the HHS
38 budget, MCPS budget, and then some joint activities. I don't know which if the HHS
39 Committee Chair or the Ed Committee Chair wants to lead the discussion.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Well, I'll keep working and then Chairwoman Ervin will chime in as needed.

43
44 President Knapp,



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1 Okay.

2
3 Councilmember Leventhal,

4 So, with respect to -- so we're on page 2 of the item 4, with respect to Linkages to
5 Learning. This is a very important program and each year we should pause to thank
6 former Councilmember Mike Subin who was the sponsor of this very important program
7 that connects children with -- facing challenges. Young people with emotional
8 disturbance, with mental health issues, with a need for counseling, with a need for
9 access to healthcare, connecting them to the HHS Department and to the Health and
10 Human Services delivery process outside agencies as needed. The Executive
11 recommended \$5.175 million and 5.5 work years for Linkages to Learning. And the
12 committee generally went along with that. With respect to the High School Wellness
13 Center, which again, we're trying to make connections here between our educational
14 establishment and our Health and Human Services delivery establishment, we are
15 funding operations at the Northwood High School Wellness Center. We hope to expand
16 the program, but not this year. We concur with an increase of \$398,340 to annualize
17 services again only at Northwood High School with out centers to open in the future.
18 School Health Services, we have a delay in the opening of Clarksburg Elementary
19 School, so that we found savings of \$105,070 for school health services at Clarksburg
20 Elementary School. We are adding two positions at Summit Hall Elementary School
21 Health Center. We are reducing school health services for the summer Extended
22 Learning Opportunities program; it's a small reduction based on enrollment. We have
23 found a way to pay for negotiated increase for those County staff, including health room
24 aides and community health nurses who are providing these critically important services
25 at the school health centers. Any questions or comments about that?

26
27 President Knapp,
28 Not yet.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,

31 Okay. We have arrangements with outside providers that we wanted to continue, even
32 though the County Executive did not. We wanted to continue the Ruth Rail Reading
33 program, about which I know many of my constituents have received -- many of my
34 colleagues have received communications from their constituents, so we placed on the
35 reconciliation list \$39,390 for George B. Thomas Learning Academy; \$39,390 for Inter
36 Ages; and \$24,540 for Passion for Learning, to continue the Ruth Rails Reading
37 program. We are hopeful that we may be able to begin a new Sharp Street program
38 where there is strong community support and strong need in Rockville to serve the
39 Rockville and Richard Montgomery clusters. And we went along with the County
40 Executive's recommendation for the George B. Thomas Learning Academy Saturday
41 School, \$1,034,769. Any questions on those contracts without outside providers?

42
43 Vice President Andrews,
44 No, sir.



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1
2 Councilmember Leventhal,
3 For Childcare Subsidies, the two committees concurred with the staffing changes
4 recommended by the Executive, including elimination of an Income Assistance
5 Specialist II, and moving two positions from Childcare Subsidies to income assistance.
6 Unfortunately, we are not getting the participation in the Working Parents Assistance
7 Program that we hoped to get for the community. We are going to continue to do
8 outreach and to deal with some of the cultural barriers, transportation challenges, and
9 other coordination issues that have prevented full utilization of the program. But we just
10 aren't able to spend the money, and so we are reducing that critically important program
11 for working families by \$311,360. And we will continue to monitor the participation in
12 those childcare assistance programs. Any comments on childcare services?

13
14 President Knapp,
15 No, sir. I don't see any from Councilmembers.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 Okay, for Pre-K and Head Start, Chairwoman Ervin, do you want to -- that's such a high
19 priority for you; do you want to maybe to speak to the committee's recommendations
20 there?

21
22 Councilmember Ervin,
23 Sure, thank you very much. We decided to place on the reconciliation list \$190,000 to
24 support community-based Pre-K services provided by Centro [inaudible]. We've gone
25 through this many times. Ms. Garvey, I know that you have done all that you can this
26 year to try to stream together services for the children that will be provided the services
27 Centro [inaudible]. We are as a Council very concerned about what happens after that.
28 And so we will continue to work with you and the Executive Branch to figure out how to
29 continue to provide those services for those three- and four-year-olds. And it goes in
30 line with my sincere desire to put the money back into WPA once we figure out how
31 many -- what's the universe we're talking about. I'm very concerned that there are a lot
32 of children in our community that we can't get to. And so this is a very important
33 community-based Pre-K service for especially that particular area of the County. So we
34 hope to continue to work with you on that. We concur with the Executive's
35 recommendation to provide level funding for pre-kindergarten curriculum training. And
36 we also know that those things go hand-in-glove, and so we've been working with you
37 on that. And I appreciate all the hard work that you, Ms. Garvey -- you have been
38 fabulous, Kate, and Uma as well. And so I look forward to working with you following
39 this budget. Thank you so much.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Great. And maybe continue with Early Childhood Services at the bottom of page 13.

43
44 Councilmember Ervin,



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1 Sure. Okay. The HHS and Ed Committee also recommended placing \$57,907 on the
2 reconciliation list to reinstate a 0.5 work-year Program Specialist position that provides a
3 port to the Resource Center at the Montgomery County Childcare Resource and
4 Referral Center. So we concur with other adjustments recommended by the Executive
5 on that.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,

8 Okay. With respect to Services to Children with Special Needs, bottom of page 15, the
9 committee has concurred with the County Executive. We are fortunate to receive an
10 increase in the State grant for this program, the infants and toddlers program, an
11 increase of \$113,750. For Parent Support Services, we agree with the County
12 Executive's recommendation for the Learning Parties Health Families Montgomery and
13 Family Foremost programs. On page 17, the County Council, I think, should take great
14 pride in our initiative to make sure that children in foster care are able to maintain some
15 consistency in their lives and in their educational careers. We appreciate MCPS's
16 participation in providing transportation wherever the generous foster parents reside.
17 We want to make sure that the children are able to maintain their educational careers at
18 their base school. We've worked closely with MCPS on this, and it costs about 40,000
19 bucks, and it is money well spent to provide some stability for these children who have
20 encountered -- who have been abandoned and abused by their own parents. And then
21 with respect -- and Chairwoman Ervin, on page 18, perhaps you would like to address
22 the Kennedy Cluster.

23
24 Councilmember Ervin,

25 Sure. Very excited and very hopeful about the Kennedy Cluster Project in terms of our
26 work on it thus far. The HHS and Ed Committee recommendation is to concur with the
27 Board of Education on the recommended \$52,000 in the MCPS budget for research and
28 program management related to the project. This is a reduction of \$98,000 from the
29 previous year. And we concur with the County Executive on eliminating the DHHS
30 funding of \$100,000 for the project. I think where the project is right now is in a good
31 place. And we're hoping to hear back from all the parties in the fall. I think this is a
32 tremendous collaboration effort that was begun in the fall of '07. So I think we've done
33 great work. And we look forward to hearing from you in the fall.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,

36 Great. Well I particularly want to thank Councilmember Ervin for her championing the
37 2's, 3's and 4's here. We want to get these kids ready to learn and reduce the
38 achievement gap, and the preschool age is the critical age to do that. And
39 Councilmember Ervin has been a strong champion for those programs. And we all look
40 forward to the results on the Kennedy Cluster. We are one-county government, and we
41 appreciate the effort of the school system and the HHS Department, and other
42 departments to avoid stovepipes and to work together on seamless delivery of
43 health/human services education and other services to a particularly impacted



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1 community. So that's it for the joint recommendations of the HHS and Education
2 Committee.

3
4 Vice President Andrews,
5 Thank you very much. There are no other questions. Great job. And the next is the
6 Council and Executive grants, which is item 5; and I believe that's continuing to be you,
7 Mr. Chair.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 Okay. I'm going to ask Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare -- I'm going to actually -- I don't really
11 want to talk about this. Let's have Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare tell us what we're doing here.

12
13 Vice President Andrews,
14 A judicious choice.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare, what are we doing?

18
19 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
20 All right. We are now on agenda number 5. We are going to first act on the County
21 Executive's recommended community discretionary grants and the Council President's
22 recommendations regarding Council grants. If you would give me one minute, I first like
23 to thank the Grants Advisory Group some of whose members are here, as well as the
24 co-chairs of the group, who are Steve Hornburger and Lee Mason. I wonder if maybe
25 they could just stand up so you could see who they are. Stand up so that the
26 Councilmembers can see who's here. These are the people who reviewed the 186 grant
27 applications -- reviewed and evaluated them. This was an extraordinary effort by 25
28 members of our community. They spent collectively over 100 hours meeting with
29 Council grant applicants, many of whom are also here today. And the Grants Advisory
30 Group members spent at least that much time individually reading the applications,
31 writing their evaluations, and so I did want to take this occasion to thank them for their
32 amazing and extraordinary and conscientious effort. It was just a real pleasure to work
33 with them. I'd also like to thank my assistant, Kristin Krause, who's in the back, and who
34 is about to get her Masters Degree in social work. And some lucky Maryland jurisdiction
35 -- hint, hint -- is going to be lucky to have her joining the child welfare staff. So she's
36 going to become one of our child welfare staff members.

37
38 President Knapp,
39 Congratulations.

40
41 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
42 All right, with that. Just by way of background, remember last December the Council set
43 a target of \$2.35 million for funding of Council grants. And as you will see later, we
44 came pretty close to that number. You, Councilmembers, basically have three decisions



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1 to make right now. First, part one, on page 2, I'd like to recommend that we continue a
2 practice that we began last year for the first time, and that is to require applicants who
3 awarded funding, either from a Council grant or a County Executive discretionary grant,
4 to provide one-page reports twice a year on the results that they've achieved with that
5 funding. This was the first year, Fiscal Year 08, where the Council instituted that
6 requirement. We got our first set of outcomes reports in February, and the Grants
7 Advisory Group members were able to use those reports in their evaluations of
8 applications, and found it very, very helpful. I would particularly like to thank the Office
9 of Management and Budget and the Executive Branch departments for helping to
10 implement this requirement. It was a lot of work for them, but I think it was very, very
11 beneficial. And with the Council's concurrence, I would like to recommend that we
12 include similar language in the appropriation resolution for Fiscal Year 09. So if the
13 Council concurs with that, we'll go ahead and do that as well for '09. Okay.

14
15 President Knapp,
16 No objection.

17
18 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
19 Okay. Next, again at the bottom of page 2, I just have some very brief summary
20 information about the grants that were reviewed this year. As I mentioned, there were a
21 total of 186 applications from 132 different organizations. The dollar amount of the
22 requests was about \$11.5 million. That is a slight decrease in number of applications
23 from last year, and about 11% decrease in the number of applications, and about a 29%
24 increase in dollar requests. So I thought you would be interested to know that. As has
25 been the case in the past, the overwhelming majority of the applications are operating
26 support requests. A significant number are repeat requests from last year. Although we
27 do have some requests from new organizations, about 17% of the requests were from
28 new organizations. The two largest program areas of the requests were in the areas of
29 youth development and services to seniors and people with disabilities. So that's just
30 some summary information about the grants that we received this year. On page 3, I
31 also have provided -- I'm not going to go over this, but I've provided some funding
32 history in terms of grants, both from the Executive and the Council.

33
34 President Knapp,
35 Councilmember Ervin has a question.

36
37 Councilmember Ervin,
38 I do have a question, Peggy, thank you very much for your very thorough packet. I
39 appreciate all your hard work. I have a question about the numbers that you just laid out
40 in terms of how many applicants we had fewer this year than prior years. Does that
41 have anything to do with how many grants now are in the base budget?

42
43 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,



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1 I don't believe so, because there are actually -- there have been a relatively small
2 number of grants that have been, shall we say, migrated from the community grants
3 departmental account to the base budgets. There have been relatively few in the last
4 couple of years. So I don't think that is the reason for the lower number of requests. As
5 to what the reason is, I really have no idea.

6
7 Beryl Feinberg,

8 If I may, Peggy, one part may also be this is the first year the NDA from McKell was
9 transmitted by the Executive. And so those requests that had been for ESAU funding,
10 and there had been several administered, if I recollect, either eight approximately in
11 libraries alone, they would have gone through the McKell process. So you wouldn't see
12 those coming through as a request. That is at least one type of request you're not
13 seeing come through this.

14
15 Councilmember Ervin,

16 Yeah, that's interesting. I appreciate that, because I've also noticed that there were a
17 few grants that were on the list last year that I know ended up in the base budget. So I
18 would just like to see maybe for the next year if there is some sort of trending going on.
19 If we continue in this trend what does that mean for this particular exercise, because I
20 don't want grant these names, but I know they ended up in the base budget, and they
21 had been coming back to the Council in prior years. So I just want to get a handle on
22 what's happening.

23
24 President Knapp,

25 Councilmember Leventhal.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,

28 I think these are fascinating issues to review. And I appreciate Councilmember Ervin's
29 questions, because our relationship to these outside providers from year to year does
30 say a lot about the extent of the needs in the community. Having said that, 186
31 applications is still a lot, so I wouldn't -- although I think Councilmember Ervin's question
32 is well placed, we're really only comparing one year to another. And there may be just
33 some random nature of, you know, who had an idea and who wanted to get it funded. I
34 think certainly if we saw over a multi-year period that organizations were no longer
35 coming to the Council that would be of extraordinary interest. And that may be a
36 function of whether they feel like our process is too cumbersome, whether they think
37 their chances of getting funded are too low, whether we're doing adequate outreach.
38 But I think a two-year sample just isn't enough to really draw any conclusions. Although
39 the questions are very well [inaudible].

40
41 Councilmember Ervin,

42 Well that's precisely why I'm asking the question, because we should be very mindful if
43 this becomes a trend. And that's why I'm asking the question. So I appreciate it.



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1 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
2 Okay. All right, page 3, County Executive recommended grants. The County Executive
3 has recommended a total of 53 discretionary community grants in the community grants
4 non-departmental account. The total dollar amount of that request is \$3.1 million. They
5 are all listed on circles 13 through 16. There is one grant that the Health and Human
6 Services committee reviewed that was a request from the County Executive through his
7 budget adjustments in April. The County Executive -- it was for \$25,000 for the
8 Washington Youth Foundation. The County Executive had recommended that this grant
9 be included in the base budget of the Department of Health and Human Services. And
10 the committee recommended unanimously that the Council consider this grant through
11 today as part of the other County Executive recommended discretionary grants. And if it
12 is approved, then to include it as in the community grants non-departmental account.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Now, Mr. President.

16
17 President Knapp,
18 Councilmember Leventhal.

19
20 Councilmember Leventhal,
21 Yeah. So with respect to the Washington Youth Foundation, when we go to the
22 addendum on agenda item number 5, that grant is not included either on the President's
23 list or the staff list; am I right?

24
25 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
26 Correct.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Okay.

30
31 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
32 But we -- if the -- because it is a County Executive recommended grant -- .

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Right.

36
37 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
38 If the Council approves the County Executive recommended grants, we will add that
39 one to that list.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Okay, so just to clarify what is before the Council now the County Executive's list, which
43 -- just point us to what the page the County Executive's list is on.



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1 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
2 Circles 13 through 16.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Okay, I just want to clarify for those who may be in the audience, watching at home and
6 for my colleagues, what we're doing here. Okay, beginning on circle 13, in the County
7 Executive's budget, the County Executive identified a long list of worthy organizations
8 that he believed deserved funding. The Washington Youth Foundation was left off that
9 list, I understand, in error. The County Executive suggested that we ought to add a
10 grant to the Washington Youth Foundation in the HHS Department base. It was the
11 HHS Committee's view that the Washington Youth Foundation's application was no
12 different than any of the other grants, and that we would not include it in the base. But
13 since the County Executive recommended it, we would, if we adopt the entire list of
14 recommendations from the County Executive -- that's a decision that Council has yet to
15 make. But what will be before the Council is that we would include the Washington
16 Youth Foundation as if it were included initially as the County Executive tells us he
17 intended to do.

18
19 President Knapp,
20 Okay, I think that's clear.

21
22 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
23 All right. So on page 4 in the middle, the action for the Council right now is the County
24 Executive recommended grants that are before you. As I said, in prior years, the
25 Council has approved these on a consent basis as a group.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 Okay, and I will suggest that the Council do that again. But I just want to ask Ms.
29 Fitzgerald-Bare, did this list go through the Grants Advisory Group?

30
31 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
32 Yes, it did.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Okay, and so it -- .

36
37 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
38 There are one-page evaluations for each of those 53 County Executive recommended
39 grants.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Okay, and I just recollect in, you know, an off-premises conversation that you had
43 suggest that there might be some on this list that the Grants Advisory Group wasn't
44 totally enamored of. But the packet doesn't address that. So what we're moving ahead



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1 with now is, as with past practice, since the Executive suggested these and the
2 community groups are expecting them, there's no other recommendation from you or
3 from Grants Advisory Group other than to just approve the whole packet.

4
5 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
6 That is correct.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 Thank you, and I so move.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 Okay, is there a second.

13
14 Councilmember Berliner,
15 Second.

16
17 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
18 Second.

19
20 President Knapp,
21 Second. All in support of as the Executive Branch had submitted, please indicate by
22 raising your hand. That is unanimous.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,
25 Okay.

26
27 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
28 Okay, now we move to the Council President's recommendations. And it might be
29 easiest to focus on the addendum, which I circulated yesterday which hopefully
30 everyone has a copy of. There were copies in the back. And I have some extra ones if
31 any of the Councilmembers need it. We're all set.

32
33 President Knapp,
34 The Council President might need one.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 So just to clarify again, if I could, Mr. President; what is before the Council now. This list
38 comes to us in a combined fashion that is Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare's recommendations
39 combined with the President's recommendations are now before the Council as the
40 President's recommendation, which I'm happy to second.

41
42 President Knapp,
43 Correct. Any discussion. Seeing none, all in support of the recommendations as
44 submitted. That's unanimous too. Excellent.



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1
2 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,

3 And these will all go on the reconciliation list. And as I mentioned, the total dollar
4 amount of the Council President's recommendations is \$2,317,660, which is fairly close
5 to the \$2.35 million target that the Council set in December as a target for funding of
6 Council grants. So with that -- .

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 With that I have another item.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 On this issue?

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Absolutely.

16
17 President Knapp,
18 Councilmember Leventhal.

19
20 Councilmember Leventhal,
21 Okay, thank you, Mr. President. I regret the lateness of this, but Councilmembers I know
22 have been hearing at our Silver Spring town hall meeting and in many emails from
23 constituents about an asset owned by the public school system. It is unique in the
24 County. It is a swimming pool located in Piney Branch Elementary School. And just for
25 the purpose of full disclosure, my son attends Piney Branch Elementary School, but I've
26 been advised by the County Attorney that I have no unique conflict of interest here since
27 all Councilmembers' kids either have in the past or now attend public schools. So I am
28 disclosing but I don't have a conflict here and I don't plan to recuse myself. The school
29 system has certain unique assets. We discuss the Old Blair Auditorium yesterday. The
30 Piney Branch Elementary School swimming pool is another one. Unfortunately, the
31 school system has taken, I would say, a suboptimal approach in the past to managing
32 these unique assets, and both of them have lay fallow now for some period of time. I
33 want to commend the city of Takoma Park, its Mayor Bruce Williams, particularly City
34 Councilmember Terri Seamans, and the President of the Piney Branch Elementary
35 School, Sue Capps-Miller who were relentless in trying to achieve a solution for this
36 damp, empty hole in the ground in the middle of an elementary school. It is not good
37 asset management. It is not good asset management to allow a valuable asset to be
38 untended to and un-maintained, but unfortunately the school system had precisely that
39 plan to just leave it alone and do nothing with it. So Adventist Community Services has
40 agreed, at the request of the Takoma Park Mayor and Council, to step up to the task of
41 continuing to manage this pool. And so although it is a bit irregular, myself and my
42 colleagues from the down east part of the County, Councilmember Ervin from District 5,
43 and Mr. Elrich, are asking that the Council please consider adding to the community
44 grants NDA a contract with Adventist Community Services to operate the swimming



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1 pool along with adding on the reconciliation list for the Recreation Department \$21,700
2 for the pool pact service contract, which is necessary to open the pool. The details of
3 the agreement are -- have been distributed to Councilmembers. They were distributed
4 over the weekend. The school system and Superintendent Weast told me just this
5 morning that the school system will contribute \$50,000 in '08 dollars to reopening the
6 pool. The city of Takoma Park has agreed to kick in \$50,000. There is some uncertainty
7 here in future years the amount of the County's contribution may decrease because
8 fees that will be collected from users of the pool and the surplus of the city of Takoma
9 Park's contribution over and above any amounts needed to renovate the pool will be
10 used to offset the County's contract with Adventist Community Services in future years.
11 So our agreement today, if we should so agree, to appropriate \$206,750; in future years
12 that amount can be expected to go down because of the receipts from the pool users
13 and the city of Takoma Park's one-time contribution. So we're going to work this out.
14 We're going to see how it works. In the past, the pool had been operated by the Silver
15 Spring Y, user-ship was low, city of Takoma Park has offered to handle promotion and
16 education and outreach to the community to make this available to what really is a very
17 underserved and low-income corridor along Maple Avenue and Takoma Park, which
18 census data will show is home to some of our least-served and lowest income
19 residents. I don't know if the Councilmember from District 5 or Mr. Elrich, former
20 Takoma Park City Councilmember, want to speak to this issue.

21
22 President Knapp,
23 Councilmember Ervin, then I've got [inaudible] questions.

24
25 Councilmember Ervin,
26 I want to first of all commend Councilmember Leventhal for his leadership on this issue.
27 I know that his children -- one of his children attends Piney Branch Elementary School,
28 and so did mine; but they're a lot older than his now. And I think this is a really good
29 approach, and I'm glad that folks got their heads together to figure out how to best
30 spend these dollars. But I do have a couple of questions, and I think this is a good time
31 for me to ask the Councilmember where he might want to go. And I see Joe Lavorgna is
32 in the audience in case he might want to respond. And that is this \$50,000, is that all the
33 County Council is in for. That's what's going on the -- okay, give me -- I'm very confused
34 about what we said we were going to do.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Sure. You bet. The school system and the superintendent affirmed with me this
38 morning, the school system will find \$50,000 in '08 dollars to fix the pool. The estimate
39 for the cost of fixing the pool is found on page 2 of the attachment -- \$64,800. But that's
40 just an estimate from one vendor. And I do need to clarify here that -- if everyone could
41 just take their pen and scratch out on the middle of page 2 of the proposal, the County
42 will contract that will be the school system, MCPS will contract out for pool renovation
43 work. Okay, the rest of that number one should be deleted. I apologize that the name of
44 a specific vendor was included in this memo. That was included in error and it should



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1 not be adopted by the Council. So the estimated cost of fixing the pool is \$64,800; it
2 may come to more than that. The school system has agreed to kick in \$50,000. The
3 Council today is being asked to appropriate dollars for operating the pool in Fiscal '09.
4 So what we're asking the Council to do is appropriate \$206,750 as a community grants
5 NDA item to operate the pool in Fiscal '09, plus \$21,700 to the Rec Department for the
6 Pool Pact Service contract, which is necessary equipment to operate the pool.

7
8 President Knapp,

9 I guess that's the point I had as far as clarification. So effectively we're not appropriating
10 anything today. We're actually putting both of those on the reconciliation list for
11 consideration.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,

14 Yes, right, \$21,700 to the Rec Department on the reconciliation list; \$206,750 in the
15 Community Grants NDA. All of the grants we just approved on the reconciliation list;
16 isn't that correct?

17
18 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,

19 Yes.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,

22 Yes, so it's -- we're treating them the same as the other grants.

23
24 President Knapp,

25 Okay, so I wanted to make sure there was consistency there. Okay.

26
27 Councilmember Ervin,

28 I do have one -- I'm glad that Mr. Lavgorgna came to the table, because I understand the
29 community's great concern about this pool. I have the same concern. I also have the
30 same concern about Old Blair Auditorium, as you know. And we're working with you on
31 that as well. I want to hear from the school system your \$50,000 -- the \$50,000, that's it
32 for you? I mean, you're in and you're out; is that how this -- how is this -- I want to hear
33 the whole thing. So how is this going to work?

34
35 Joe Lavgorgna,

36 In the conversation with the Superintendent, he agreed to, out of '08 end of year funds,
37 to contribute \$50,000 towards the repair. It was not my understanding, nor I believe the
38 Superintendent's, that the school system would be the contractor or -- yeah, the person
39 to contract -- the agency to contract through to have these repairs done. It would be
40 done by how prepared the estimate, the school system would contribute the first
41 \$50,000 towards the repairs. As you know, the estimated repairs that -- the estimate
42 that the school system came up with was much more than this.

43
44 Councilmember Ervin,



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1 Okay, let me finish my question, because that \$50,000 is it. So you are not the
2 contractors?

3
4 Joe Lavorgna,
5 Correct.

6
7 Councilmember Ervin,
8 So you're just going to write a check to whoever it is that gets the bid to fix the pool?

9
10 Joe Lavorgna,
11 Yes.

12
13 Councilmember Ervin,
14 And if it's more than that, what happens then? It's not your problem?

15
16 Joe Lavorgna,
17 It was my understanding that either the city of Takoma Park or -- .

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 They city will pick up the balance.

21
22 Joe Lavorgna,
23 Kick in the balance.

24
25 Councilmember Ervin,
26 That is not what -- I'm telling you that this needs to be somehow very clearly laid out on
27 some memo, because that was not my understanding.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 Let me just add, and then I'll turn to -- Councilmember Elrich has yet to speak, so let me
31 get there. But I just want to make sure. I would agree with the Councilmember from
32 District 5 that I think we need to make sure that we have clarity on that before we get all
33 those pieces pulled together. So I want to make sure that we get to that point before -- .

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 It should not be hard to clear up.

37
38 President Knapp,
39 Within the next 36 hours. Councilmember Elrich and then Councilmember Leventhal.

40
41 Councilmember Elrich,
42 It shouldn't be hard to get to that point, but my understanding was the city would kick in
43 the next \$50,000, which was thought to be in excess of the 14 they would need,
44 according to the estimate, and so that would go to the first year's operating. We did say



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1 that if it went over \$100,000, which would be \$36,000 more than estimate, then the
2 County was going to pick up the difference. And that was the gist of the discussion in
3 the room. But we didn't think based on the estimate that we would get there. The other
4 thing is -- and it's in here is that the school system will pay the operating costs for the
5 daytime operation of the pool. And so you got to think, you know, it's going to be really
6 hard to totally discretely separate out the operating costs; you're buying chlorine and all
7 these other things, you know, the stuff the pool needs to operate. There's going to be
8 some mixing of funds in that, because you're not going to be able draw a fine line. If you
9 heat the pool during the day there is less heating going to be required when the pool is
10 used by other people later on.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 Okay.

14
15 Councilmember Elrich,
16 So there's a sharing of these things.

17
18 President Knapp,
19 Mr. Lavorgna, I guess my concern is I don't want us to necessarily write the memo here.
20 So if the school -- was the school system a party to this document that's attached to the
21 memo?

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 School Board Member Chris Barkley was present in the discussion that led to the
25 adoption of this document.

26
27 President Knapp,
28 But the school system more broadly -- .

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 Well, Mr. Lavorgna has been participating in seven or eight -- and his staff has
32 participated in more than a half-dozen meetings over the last several months to get to
33 this point. But this last final resolution, the only school system representative was
34 School Board Member Barkley.

35
36 President Knapp,
37 So it sounds like we still have some pieces to resolve. Joe and then Councilmember
38 Leventhal.

39
40 Joe Lavorgna,
41 Just to Mr. Elrich's point that operating of the pool in terms of utilities, the Board has and
42 will continue to pay. The operation of the chlorine, the life guards, and all of that is
43 someone else.



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1 President Knapp,
2 Councilmember Leventhal.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Right. During school hours the Council is not in a position to tell MCPS what it wants to
6 do. If the school system is going to own a swimming pool and have a bunch of third-,
7 fourth- and fifth-grade kids who want to swim in it, and the school system is going to say
8 no we're washing our hands of this, it doesn't exist. We don't believe it's there. I think
9 that would be unwise on the part of the school system. And my expectation is that as in
10 the past the school system probably eventually will use it, program it for the kids who
11 want to swim in it. But whatever it does during the school day is entirely up to it. What
12 the contract that the Council is calling for is for non-school hours. And so the non-school
13 hours will be programmed through the ICB, but the operator will be Adventist
14 Community Services. On the specific point, and I agree with the Council President, we
15 don't want to write the memo here. But on the specific point of who executes the
16 contract, who procures the pool renovation work, it's a school system asset. I mean, I
17 assume that would be the school system. If the school system is comfortable with
18 having the Rec Department manage the contract to renovate the pool, then that's fine
19 too. It really doesn't matter. We're going to -- there will be a procurement; there will be a
20 bid. Vendors will bid on it and somebody will fix the pool. Whether that procurement is
21 managed by MCPS or by the Rec Department I think is immaterial.

22
23 President Knapp,
24 Well that's -- what I'd like to do is to -- to questions that Councilmember Ervin has raised
25 and to some of the other questions, see if we can kind of bring that to closure in the next
26 day or so.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Yeah. So let's bring a revised memo back to Council.

30
31 President Knapp,
32 Let's do that.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Okay, so what we need to do now, I mean, if we could put on the reconciliation list the
36 pool pact dollars to the Rec Department, if we could put on the reconciliation list a
37 contract with Adventist Community Services. And then if we could, you know, refine all
38 the details in this memo and bring it back to Council later.

39
40 President Knapp,
41 Okay, let's put those on the reconciliation list and let's bring back -- tie the pieces
42 together so that we've got some agreement before we have this next conversation. Is
43 there objection? I don't see any. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Lavgorna.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 Thank you my colleagues.

3
4 President Knapp,
5 And I just wanted -- and so what does that do for us on grants?

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 We've just completed item 5.

9
10 President Knapp,
11 Okay.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 And so now we need to go to item 6. Okay, so on item 6, the Health and Human
15 Services Committee held work sessions on April 21st, April 23rd, and May 7th. Each
16 year we're very grateful for our -- the success of our delegates and senators; and each
17 year they force us to find money to match good ideas that they have. And so as in prior
18 years we had a number of bond bills that were successful in the legislature and among
19 those were Casa Maryland, which is building a beautiful new headquarters in a historic
20 home, although it is not actually located in Montgomery County. It is very close to
21 Montgomery County and it will become Casa's primary headquarters in a beautiful
22 historic home that serves the Takoma Park/Langley Park area. And Montgomery
23 County residents will significantly benefit from the new administrative headquarters. So
24 there will be a multicultural center, a 21,000 square foot community center, which will
25 house several nonprofits, provide education workforce and economic development
26 programs to the entire community. And so 6,000 individuals will be served through the
27 new center; I'm guessing roughly half of those will be Montgomery County residents.
28 Jenny Friedman is nodding her head yes. So to match the State bond bill, which was \$1
29 million -- I believe that was in the Governor's budget, the County Executive
30 recommended \$150,000 and the HHS Committee concurred with that. Item 2, CHI
31 Centers -- the Executive -- the -- again, I don't know if this was in the Governor's budget
32 or whether these were our delegates and senators who put this in, but it's \$1.265 million
33 in total State funding for the renovation of CHI Centers. This is the Lone Oak Center,
34 which houses the support center and the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, which provides
35 vocational, therapeutic, medical, aftercare and summer recreation programs for children
36 and adults with disabilities. The Center also houses the court appointed special
37 advocate which provides services to children involved in legal and court systems. This
38 is a County asset. It is in disrepair. And they County Executive recommended \$50,000,
39 a modest appropriation of funds to match the substantial state dollars going into this
40 project. And the HHS Committee agreed that this is a County-owned facility and we need
41 to remove asbestos, and the \$50,000 was an appropriate use of County resources here.
42 Item 3, Jewish Council for the Aging -- the JCA is purchasing a building to become a
43 center for productive aging. It will become the headquarters of the JCA, and a
44 permanent home for programs, including transportation services for the elderly and a



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1 secured location for the elder bus fleet, which has been vandalized three times in the
2 last two years. And so there's a need for a secure location for this fleet. JCA is also
3 working with the nonprofit incubator, which we've heard about in prior years. And so the
4 JCA headquarters will also become the headquarters to several startup nonprofits. This
5 is a worthy cause. The total cost is \$10 million. The County Executive recommended
6 \$100,000 but the committee felt that there were so many important and valuable
7 projects being pursued in this headquarters that we recommended an increase to be
8 funded out of our CIP reserve a total of \$250,000 was the HHS Committee's
9 recommendation for the new Jewish Council for the Aging headquarters.

10
11 President Knapp,
12 Okay.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Okay, no questions or comments on that.

16
17 President Knapp,
18 Questions.

19
20 Councilmember Leventhal,
21 When do we get to that PDF language on this for the nonprofit?

22
23 Unidentified,
24 It's at the end.

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 It's at the end, thank you. Well why don't we just take it up now since it's related while
28 we're talking about the JCA headquarters. Just skipping ahead to item 9, the Nonprofit
29 Village. We need to make a technical adjustment to the project description form. We
30 had -- a year ago the County Council a year ago had approved \$200,000 for a bond bill
31 match for nonprofit village to develop a multi-tenant nonprofit center. The Council was
32 concerned that the city of Rockville -- every time the County tries to identify a project in
33 the city of Rockville, we have to make certain that it is to the city of Rockville's liking.
34 The Council was prescient on this point a year ago because subsequent to
35 appropriating these funds and approving a PDF calling for the city of Rockville to say
36 yes we agree that this is a good location, the city of Rockville actually decided that that
37 precise location was where it wanted the courthouse -- the state courthouse to locate.
38 So now the nonprofit village is no longer seeking to locate itself in the city of Rockville.
39 It's seeking to locate just outside the city of Rockville in the new beautiful Jewish
40 Council for the Aging Headquarters. And so the committee agreed that we should take
41 the language out of the PDF, which had stated that funds for the item must not be spent
42 until the County receives a letter from the city of Rockville confirming that the city
43 supports the location of a nonprofit village at the proposed site, and will consider
44 planning funds or other financial assistance for the project in the future. So we're not



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1 longer talking about having nonprofit village in city of Rockville, so we're simply
2 proposing the deletion of that language from the PDF.

3
4 President Knapp,
5 Okay.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 Okay so that's the Jewish Council for the Aging Headquarters. Going back now to page
9 4, Montgomery General Hospital, consistent with the Council's support of the Holy
10 Cross Hospital expansion; here the HHS Committee recommended two increments of
11 \$250,000 each to be funded out of our CIP reserve, a total of \$500,000 on the
12 reconciliation list to assist Montgomery General Hospital to double the size of it's
13 emergency department, increase treatment capacity for emergency department,
14 patients from 30,000 patients to 60,000 patients annually; need is growing in that
15 portion of the County, as the Council President well knows. So that was the committee's
16 recommendation for Montgomery General Hospital.

17
18 President Knapp,
19 Okay.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 For the YWCA -- excuse me, YMCA Youth and Family Services requests County funds
23 to assist with the purchase and subsequently repairs of their current building, which is
24 leased from Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring. The church wants to sell the
25 building and YMCA wants to buy it. And the committee's recommendation was
26 \$200,000 to match the State bond bill of \$200,000 to assist the YMCA to buy its
27 building.

28
29 President Knapp,
30 Okay.

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,
33 Okay.

34
35 President Knapp,
36 Comments? At the end, right, Nancy?

37
38 Councilmember Floreen,
39 Yes.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 All right, Aunt Haddie's Place. Aunt Haddie's Place is a nonprofit organization that
43 provides foster placement for children who have had unlucky circumstances and whose
44 own parents were not sufficiently attentive to their parental duties. And so Aunt Haddie's



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1 Place wants to create a group home for eight boys in foster care in Sandy Spring. This
2 home has been delayed for a number of reasons. Haddie Washington is here. Dr.
3 Haddie Washington has had the pleasure of interacting with our Board of Appeals and
4 our Planning Board. We've had a number of delays and lengthy land-use approvals,
5 lengthy legal requirements that have increased the length of time and the cost of the
6 project. The County has already contributed \$550,000 to this project. The State has
7 approved a bond bill of \$550,000, but the cost has escalated and so Haddie is back to
8 help us cap this project off. The committee is very sympathetic to the need for foster
9 care and supportive of Dr. Washington's initiative, and we recommended \$250,000 for
10 construction to continue the progress in building this group home for foster boys.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 Councilmember Berliner, on this topic?

14
15 Councilmember Berliner,
16 Yes, on this topic, Council President. I wanted to observe that as the Chairman pointed
17 out that we have committee recommendation to go forward with \$250,000, but I would
18 share with my colleagues, if you look at the top of page 7, the language there that
19 before that \$250,000 can be spent, we have said to Haddie's Place sponsors that they
20 must demonstrate that they have commitments for the entire funding. There are serious
21 questions as to whether or not these dollars can be gotten, but it's a challenge that the
22 sponsors of Haddie's Place believe that they can meet. And our dollars will be the last
23 dollars, in effect, expended assuming that they have the rest of the commitment. In
24 addition, staff has a recommendation that we should discuss at -- right above number 7,
25 there on page 7, because it is only contemplated that this -- the lease, as I understand
26 it, is a 20-year lease, and at the end of that 20-year lease, it could revert back to private
27 ownership. And the staff is recommending that if it does revert back to, or is no longer
28 used as a group home, then our investment should be repaid. And I believe that that is
29 a fair request on the part of staff with respect to that, and would support that. It's almost
30 my understanding that the Executive Branch has further language with respect to this,
31 and if that's the case I think now is the time to hear it.

32
33 Beryl Feinberg,
34 You're good. I don't know how you heard that so quickly. Thank you very much. That's
35 absolutely right. One of the concerns is in the language that Petty had put forward. We
36 have another concern that in order to really get that \$250,000 repayment should there
37 be a problem; it will be very difficult to get it actually from -- potentially from the
38 nonprofit. And then the taxpayer potentially could lose out. So in consulting with the
39 County Attorney this morning, we had a suggestion for an alternate but with the same
40 aim that I think Peggy is putting forth that any disbursement would be conditioned on
41 the owner of the property, which I think we all acknowledge is a person owning not a
42 nonprofit. The owner of the property giving the County an appropriate covenant
43 restricting the use of the property for a foster home for 10 years. Part of the reasoning of
44 this is because the bond -- the State bond bill requires it to be used for 10 years, and



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1 why should we not at least have the same appropriate use for 10 years and put it as a
2 restriction on this. So I ask that for your consideration.

3
4 Councilmember Berliner,
5 This member of the committee finds that to be totally acceptable, and would urge my
6 colleagues to accept that suggestion.

7
8 Beryl Feinberg,
9 And we would -- I'm sorry. We would certainly work on the exact wording and language
10 with Council staff.

11
12 President Knapp,
13 Councilmember Trachtenberg, as on the committee.

14
15 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
16 Actually, I would be in support of that language that's proposed. Indeed, in the
17 committee discussion, I actually had abstained from voting because I felt what was
18 being recommended at that point was too loosely worded. So I'm comfortable with the
19 recommendation that Councilmember Berliner has outlined, and the Executive staff has
20 brought to us today.

21
22 President Knapp,
23 Councilmember Floreen.

24
25 Councilmember Floreen,
26 Thank you. I don't recall seeing this approach previously. And I appreciate perhaps
27 unique circumstances here. But I would ask that the committee put on its to-do list
28 evaluating whether there needs to be a policy on this kind of thing, because to the
29 extent we support, you know, quite a wide variety of groups with our construction needs,
30 things do change. That's certainly true. And it would be I think helpful for us to have
31 some consensus as to how to go forward in these kinds of situations. I appreciate that
32 there were some unique attention to this particular project, but as I said, I don't recall us
33 doing this in the past.

34
35 President Knapp,
36 Councilmember Elrich.

37
38 Councilmember Floreen,
39 Perhaps the County Executive does it as well, I don't know. But it would be worth
40 identifying if this was a road we would want to just routinely take or not, and then it
41 would be taken out of the site specific initiative.

42
43 President Knapp,
44 Councilmember Elrich.



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Councilmember Elrich,

I just have to say I find this extraordinarily expensive for the number of people served. I mean you could buy in Takoma Park, for example, six-unit apartment building for around a million dollars. It would not cost \$3 million to then rehab. And to me it's just -- it's just mind boggling to me that you're spending \$4 million to put an addition on a house for the extra bedrooms. I mean, I just -- I find it hard to believe that that's the best use of money, and that we couldn't house people and provide appropriate housing for far less than that. So I just have a real problem with the amount of money being spent to accomplish this.

President Knapp,

Councilmember Ervin, first.

Councilmember Ervin,

Yes, I appreciate the comments by Councilmember Floreen, because as I look through this list of nonprofits who are asking us to fund the matching fund from the State, I ask myself the question that, you know, how much into this are we going to go, especially on some of these capital projects. And so if we're going to ask the question of Aunt Haddie's Place, then I think we ought to start getting out the microscope and looking more closely at some of these other asks that we're getting through this process. And so I have a lot of questions about some of these other items, some of which we've already approved, and some that we're going to continue to look at for approval. So I just want to, you know, if we're going to do that, then let's, as Councilmember Floreen said, if this is going to be a change in policy across the board, then let's have a closer look at all of the funds that we're appropriating for matching funds on these capital projects.

President Knapp,

Councilmember Berliner, and then Councilmember Leventhal.

Councilmember Berliner,

I would say to my colleagues that if we were approaching this totally fresh I don't know whether I would be supportive of this project. We've already invested \$550,000 into this; so the issue is, in part, is there is a way to make that investment pay off? And so this \$250,000 that we are currently contemplating is the last piece of what we hope in leveraging it in a way that we hope makes it clear that they have to come up with the rest of the dollars to make this work. I do think it's a very expensive way. There are a lot of nonprofits that we are not funding today that had very worthy projects. But having invested 550, the issue was what do we do with that prior investment? Can we do something now that would at least achieve the result that had been contemplated, and ensure that this project goes forward with other funding? Because they had asked for, I believe, 500 before the Council, and that we said no we can't -- they asked for a million from us and so we only said, no, no. We're not going there. We will go with 250 and we



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1 will require you to show that before you even touch that 250, you've gotten the rest of
2 the dollars. So the combination of that approach with staff's recommendation, with the
3 County Executive's further restrictions, I think on balance is the best way to go at this
4 moment in time.

5
6 President Knapp,
7 Councilmember Leventhal.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,

10 I want to acknowledge the validity of my colleagues' observations, including Mr. Elrich.
11 This has gotten -- the cost of this project has escalated, and it is a great disappointment.
12 I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of Haddie Washington, who is a
13 distinguished university professor at Morgan State University, who has turned -- on her
14 own time and on her own dime, has turned around the lives of needy boys who had
15 been abused and abandoned by their parents, and who has many, many children; not
16 that she gave birth to, but whose lives she turned around primarily in the Baltimore area.
17 And she owns this property in Sandy Spring, and she wants to make the same positive
18 change in the lives of young men. And many circumstances have gone wrong, and it's a
19 great disappointment. And Mr. Elrich is right; this has gotten way expensive. Now one of
20 the issues is that through the Board of Appeals process, this is a large group home, it's
21 not a small group home. And when you exceed six residents in a group home, the
22 neighbors get to have input. And there is no neighborhood that I'm aware of in which the
23 neighbors welcome this kind of youth. The opportunity to turn around the lives of
24 unfortunate young people is not often welcomed by adjacent neighbors. And in this
25 case, it was not welcomed on Norwood Road. And so it was a somewhat adversarial
26 experience with the Board of Appeals. And she required legal representation. And then
27 on her own, she took on the responsibility of turning this into a green show piece; and
28 that's a decision that she made, and we're not going to second-guess her blueprints or
29 architectural plans. But she's also got a lot of sunk costs in this, as Mr. Berliner
30 acknowledges. So as Mr. Berliner correctly states, we're trying to make some -- to get
31 something good here. Unfortunately, Aunt Haddie's Place has spent a lot of resources,
32 and now it's time to make this work. And so we're going to see what happens over the
33 course of the next year. Many good efforts are embarked upon. Many caring -- I don't
34 know a lot of people who are as caring as Haddie Washington, but many caring people
35 try to bring about good efforts. And sometimes they succeed and sometimes they don't.
36 The committee acknowledges that because of the many obstacles and unfortunate
37 delays, you know, it's not clear that this project is going to come off. But we've agreed to
38 make this commitment. What is very unusual, and I would just say to Ms. Floreen, what
39 is unusual here is there's a shortage of real estate in Montgomery County. And although
40 Aunt Haddie has incorporated her organization, Aunt Haddie's Place, Haddie
41 Washington does own the property. And that's what makes it unusual is that the --
42 through public funds we are enhancing the value of property that is owned by the
43 operator of the nonprofit. That doesn't happen a lot. And if you took a microscope to
44 other nonprofits, you wouldn't find other nonprofits where that was the case. So I do



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1 think that the interest in maintaining the public purpose for a lengthy period of time is a
2 valid point.

3
4 President Knapp,
5 Councilmember Elrich.

6
7 Councilmember Elrich,
8 I'd just like to remind George that you lived in, and I still live in a neighborhood that
9 actually said yes to every group home that came along. I don't know if you're aware of
10 how many group homes are in that neighborhood. But the neighbors there never
11 objected to a single one, which is what made it such a wonderful neighborhood to live
12 in, I guess. I just want to say, you know, that when I look at things like appliances and
13 equipment and furnishings \$200,000 each. Those are just scary numbers to me. I was a
14 foster parent for years and years with two kids, three kids for a while. I didn't need
15 \$200,000 in furnishings and \$200,000 in appliances. And I can't imagine for the life of
16 me what kind of appliances you would spend \$200,000 on. Or what kind of furniture you
17 would spend \$200,000 on. So I just -- I look at this and it looks Cadillac; it doesn't look
18 like it, you know, it's necessary for what needs to be done.

19
20 President Knapp,
21 Councilmember Leventhal.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 I think Mr. Elrich's guidance is helpful, and Dr. Washington is here. And her advisors
25 and legal team is here, and I think a clear message is being sent by the Council that we
26 want this project to succeed but the -- our patience and our capacity to string it out
27 further is beginning to diminish. So I think Mr. Elrich's points are on target. And I think
28 Dr. Washington, who again is as generous and caring as anyone I've ever met, is
29 getting a clear signal from the Council that we want this project to succeed, but all by
30 ourselves, it can't make it succeed. And we need to take a very close look at the
31 escalating costs, and identifying outside resources to make this happen.

32
33 President Knapp,
34 Okay. I see no objection to the recommendation.

35
36 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
37 I just want to clarify that the recommendation will be the language at the top of page 7,
38 plus the language recommended by the Executive.

39
40 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
41 And it's unanimous.

42
43 Councilmember Berliner,
44 And the bottom of page 7 [inaudible] staff recommendation is modified by -- correct?



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1
2 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
3 Well, I don't think you need my language at the bottom if you have theirs.

4
5 Beryl Feinberg,
6 That's correct.

7
8 Councilmember Leventhal,
9 The covenant recommended by the County Attorney would ensure the public purpose
10 for a period of ten years, which was the same requirement in the State bond bill of a
11 year ago.

12
13 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
14 It's fine.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 Okay. The next item then, number 7, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington. The
18 County Executive requested a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$250,000
19 for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington to assist with constructing an 11,000
20 square foot gymnasium and multipurpose community room in Germantown. And the
21 committee agreed with the \$250,000 amount; but where did the County Executive
22 originally propose spending this money?

23
24 President Knapp,
25 I believe it was in a supplemental this year.

26
27 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
28 Yes.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 They wanted it in FY08; we're putting it in the NDA -- not the NDA, the Cost Sharing CIP
32 Project for FY09.

33
34 President Knapp,
35 I think that's fine.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,
38 And that's acceptable to the group with their construction schedule.

39
40 President Knapp,
41 I appreciate it.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 Okay, Item 8, similarly, the Executive asked for \$75,000 for Centro Familia to help
2 match \$175,000 State bond bill to enable Centro Familia to renovate and occupy a
3 bilingual childcare center in Wheaton. This also actually is another example of where
4 public dollars are going to add value to a privately-owned property, and we will expect
5 long-term use for the public purpose at Centro Familia. And so \$75,000 was approved
6 by the committee, but we suggested it in this account that we're talking about now, the
7 Cost Sharing CIP Project rather than in the Community Grants NDA. Ms. Ervin?

8
9 Councilmember Ervin,

10 Thank you very much. I believe wholeheartedly in the mission of Centro Familia, but I
11 do have the same questions again, and mine go to the fact that if you look at the income
12 are they going to have enough money coming in. A lot of the income that I see here is
13 pending funding that's not -- it's not been approved yet. So I'm wondering how does that
14 work?

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,

17 I would only respond, as with a number of these projects, they are pieced together
18 through a variety of sources. Sometimes they have the dollars in hand when they ask us
19 for help; sometimes they leverage the dollars that we provide to go to private funders
20 and say, look what we got from Montgomery County; we're piecing the money together;
21 can you do your part. I think that's true of most of the nonprofits that come to us with
22 large capital projects. Certainly Jewish Council for the Aging [inaudible]. So it is correct.
23 I don't think that Centro Familial has identified every single dollar from the private
24 sector, but I don't think most of these organizations that we're working with have done
25 that.

26
27 Councilmember Ervin,

28 All right, well I don't think that's a small amount of money, but I'm sure the committee
29 vetted that, and I appreciate your hard work. Thanks.

30
31 President Knapp,
32 Mr. Elrich.

33
34 Councilmember Elrich,

35 Should you put the same caveat on it as on the other project that no money gets spent
36 until the package is together? Because it would pointless -- .

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,

39 OMB, [inaudible] that language is applicable here as well?

40
41 Beryl Feinberg,

42 That sounds like it would be a worthwhile recommendation.

43
44 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 If the Council is amenable.

2
3 President Knapp,
4 Okay, I don't see any objections.

5
6 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
7 Yeah, that's fine.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 Okay. And the last item we already covered -- the PDF language for Nonprofit Village.
11 So that concludes the -- .

12
13 Councilmember Elrich,
14 Can I ask a question about that?

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 On Nonprofit Village.

18
19 Councilmember Elrich,
20 Yeah. I guess I'm not -- I'm having a hard time reconciling this with what I know about
21 other nonprofit organizations in the County. We've got the Collaboration Council trying
22 to collaborate and help train people. There's another group -- I forget the initials, but
23 they work with nonprofits and they're talking about working and providing training to
24 people. None of them have come to us for capital grant for space. They're working and
25 helping training people. So I don't understand why we're putting up money for a capital
26 grant here just so people can have offices when this organization doesn't even -- it's not
27 doing anything right now as near as I can tell. There's no ongoing functioning, unlike the
28 other groups that are doing, you know, providing support to nonprofits. They're out there
29 providing support, training assistance to nonprofits. This group is nonexistent.

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,
32 Okay.

33
34 Councilmember Elrich,
35 So I don't understand the point of funding something that's not doing anything and
36 we've got people who are actually doing things.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 Okay, well if I could just respond to my friend Mr. Elrich. That would have been excellent
40 question to ask a year ago. But this PDF was already approved, and I don't even know
41 if the Council has the power to delete an item that was approved a year ago. We have
42 the power to appropriate money. I don't think we have the power to rescind money.

43
44 Beryl Feinberg,



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1 I believe that's correct, Mr. Leventhal. This was appropriated last year and approved
2 and programmed.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 So yeah, if Mr. Elrich has concerns about future funding of Nonprofit Village, should
6 they come back to us for additional funds, then I would encourage you to take it up with
7 that organization. But in this case we were merely amending a PDF that you voted for a
8 year ago.

9
10 Councilmember Elrich,
11 Yeah, I had questions a year ago. I still have questions.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 Okay.

15
16 President Knapp,
17 Okay, Councilmember Floreen.

18
19 Councilmember Floreen,
20 Thank you, Mr. President. I support the committee's recommendations on these with the
21 adjustments that have been made. But I member of the Board of the Jewish Council on
22 Aging, and so I'm going to recuse myself from that portion of the vote.

23
24 President Knapp,
25 Very good.

26
27 Councilmember Leventhal,
28 Okay, that's it for the CIP Amendment on Cost Sharing.

29
30 President Knapp,
31 Very good. And it looks like as though number 7 really is just a -- was really just
32 addressed in number 6.

33
34 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
35 That is correct.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,
38 Number 7 is done.

39
40 Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare,
41 And you don't have to take any action on number 7; it can just lapse, because we're
42 funding it in number 6.

43
44 President Knapp,



May 13, 2008

1 Okay. I just want to, before we get off of this agenda item, to thank Peggy for her efforts,
2 but also to thank the committee Chair and the Council as a whole. We have, I think,
3 taken what was a very amazing process four or five years and through the leadership
4 through the HHS Chair Leventhal and our former Councilmember, Mrs. Praisner, or
5 former colleague I think have done a great job of taking a very archaic, very un-
6 understandable process and have really put together a clear application-driven, review-
7 oriented, I think [inaudible] addressing spending affordability, it makes even clearer for
8 the public. I think we now have a process by which we can actually articulate to people
9 how you kind of get there from here. And I think through everyone's efforts and
10 commitment to really seeing this through, we actually have a grants process -- we have
11 a grants process. And so I thank you very much for your efforts. I thank Peggy for her
12 efforts. But I think it is very helpful for the community. I know that Mr. Perez and Mr.
13 Leventhal, a couple years ago, had a big grants discussion, which was good to
14 generate a lot of interest. And I think more questions came out of that, but I think right
15 now we can sit down -- I went to Peggy's meeting this past year, and I think it is a very
16 clear process for everyone who gets engaged. We can reach out and people can
17 understand what happens next. And so I thank you very much for leading us down
18 through that pathway and getting us to something that I think is of true benefit to our
19 community.

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 I really appreciate the Council President's comments. And I really appreciate Peggy
23 Fitzgerald-Bare. I mean, we -- this whole thing feels so tidy and orderly now.

24
25 President Knapp,
26 There you go.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 And, you know, whatever she -- we work with her on a year-to-year basis but, boy, I
30 enjoy working with her. It felt good this year. And so as we look to the future, I just want
31 to acknowledge what an important role Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare has played in the tidiness
32 and orderliness of it.

33
34 President Knapp,
35 Councilmember Berliner.

36
37 Councilmember Berliner,
38 Variation on the same theme; I think all of our day-to-day lives as members of this
39 Council have changed as well, because I certainly remember last year at this time how
40 many requests for meetings that my staff and I went through with respect to this
41 process. And now it's like, I'm sorry, we've got a process, and thank you.

42
43 President Knapp,



May 13, 2008

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**TRANSCRIPT
May 13, 2008**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Michael Knapp, President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Phil Andrews, Vice President
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



May 13, 2008

1
2 President Knapp,
3 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is a Public Hearing on a supplemental
4 appropriation to the County Government's FY08 Operating Budget of the Department of
5 Public Works and Transportation for Safe Routes to School Program Grant in the
6 amount of \$380,700. The record will close the conclusion of the hearing, and action is
7 tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 15th, 2008. Before beginning your presentation
8 please state your name clearly for the record. There are no speakers for this hearing.
9 That concludes this Public Hearing. And we will see you back for action on Thursday
10 afternoon. Thank you very much.
11
12
13
14